

Village View



GREATHAM – SPRING 2016 – No.95

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

Subscriptions to this newsletter are now due. Please use the form at the end of the newsletter to renew or cancel. Thanks to the support of Huntsman Tioxide all monies raised via this newsletter go to support the work of Greatham in Bloom.

The weather was particularly kind to us this year for the Snowdrop Afternoon. Although cold, the sun brought out the crowds. We would like to thank the village for putting up with all the extra cars. Many thanks also to the Hospital of God for their support and allowing the use of their grounds and the chapel. Special thanks go to the Hospital gardeners for their hard work laying out the path and to the Dresser family for donating all the straw. The wonderful natural wonder of the snowdrops right in our village is a source of great pride and is appreciated by all who come from far and wide to share in the beauty. It also shines a positive light on our village through the press and by word of mouth.

For the first time we just broke the £1000 barrier in the money taken during the three and a half hours we were open. This compares to the £680 taken last year when the prices were the same – just goes to show what a difference a little sunshine makes. A huge thank you is owed to all the volunteers who had a very, very busy time and not forgetting those who baked or made other contributions. Thanks also to the church for opening their doors to the visitors. After paying rent for the hall £900 went into Greatham in Bloom funds and £50 each was donated to the Hospital Gardeners and the Church.

Although work to keep Greatham looking good as far as the Bloom is concerned never stops, the Northumbria in Bloom competition does take a breather over the winter. The 2016 campaign is launched at Dunston, Gateshead on Wednesday 9th March. Greatham will be represented at this extended event which will include afternoon workshops.

The Woodland Trust has sent us another 30 free hedging plants to which we shall add another 20 that we have purchased. We will therefore be able to continue the scheme of repairing the hedgerow on the approach to the village from Claxton.

Some of the money raised from people visiting the Snowdrops will be used to add to the displays being developed on the mounds on the village green. 500 Snowdrops were ordered and planted. These come “in the green” rather than as dry bulbs. This is not only recommended as being more successful than dry bulbs but it means the existing plants are still visible so we can add to them without risking digging them up unawares.

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.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The appeal for donations to pay for new windows at the Community Centre went through doors in the village in January. Already donations have passed the £1000 mark which represents a wonderful boost to the appeal. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has already responded, thank you for your generosity. It is not too late to donate as we still have some way to go. Thanks to one of our trustees covering the cost of the copying and envelopes every penny received will be spent on the new windows. We will also be claiming gift aid from the government on all those donations made by taxpayers who completed a gift aid form.

The Hospital of God has also offered £10,000 toward the repair costs from a dilapidations compensation payment made by the Borough Council when they withdrew from the lease. This means we are a third of the way there which is a superb start and ensures at least some of the windows will be getting replaced.

Thanks to the Village Player who ran a 'Helping Hands' tree at the back of the hall during the pantomime another £100 has been added to the windows appeal.

The Ceilidh in the Community Centre on the 27th February was a great success. Everyone had a really good time – the more mistakes made the louder the laughter. First rate pie and peas provided refreshment half way through the evening. There was a huge raffle among other activities aimed at encouraging folks to part with their hard earned coinage. Following a rough tot up this wonderful event is expected to add over £760 to the window appeal. All this was organised by the Friday morning dance & exercise club, a fabulous effort which is very much appreciated.

There is a huge Easter Egg in the window of the corner shop in Egerton Terrace which is being raffled in aid of the Community Centre window appeal. The shop also contains a collection tin which is gathering small change. We are very grateful to Mr & Mrs Whitfield for these wonderful ideas and their support for the appeal.

A further boost has come from our ward councillors who are giving £1000 from their ward budget to help with the window replacement. The Association is very grateful for this welcome assistance.

The Community Association is now registered with HMRC for gift aid. This means any donations made to us by tax payers will be worth an extra 25p for every £1 given. Those donating will need to fill in a Gift Aid declaration form for the Community Association to claim the tax back. The Association can provide a form which you only need to complete once even if you give further donations. If you cease to be a tax payer simply let us know and we will stop making claims on your donations.

The ukulele band is returning to the Centre in the new guise of Ukclear Power on the 16th April. Tickets are £6 and there will be a bar provided in the hall. This eagerly anticipated event will be in aid of the window appeal. To obtain tickets contact Dorothy on 870292.

On the 28th May Alison Neil will be returning to Greatham with her latest one woman show 'Mrs Beeton, My Sister'. Marking the 150th anniversary of Mrs Beeton's death, award winning playwright Alison Neil provides a lively re-telling of this entertaining and moving story using the latest research. Bessie Mayson muses on the extraordinary life of her famous big sister. She was the eldest of 21 children, bought up in the Grandstand at Epsom Race Course. Isabella fell for a publisher called Sam Beeton, and joined his rackets life in journalism, culminating in her world famous "Book of Household Management". Her family disapproved. But were they right? Thirty years after Isabella Beeton's death, her sister Bessie is not so sure. Alison Neil's previous play about Mrs Beeton was hugely popular and toured from 1988-2002. It was adapted as a BBC Radio 4 Saturday Afternoon Play. *"So good, I thought I was watching Mrs Beeton herself."* Paul Heiney, The Times.

Because this play is relatively short the interval will be followed by an extra entertainment 'Fun With Food' (Greatham's version of the Generation Game). Tickets are £10 available from Dorothy Clark, ring 01429 870292.

		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	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 Trustees have made a slight adjustment to the hire charges which will only affect those using the lounge. Hire of the lounge by sections, members or affiliated groups for occasional of fund raising activities will now cost £7 per hour. None members and non-affiliated groups wishing to use the lounge will be charged £10. The reason for this is to differentiate the charge for lounge and main hall rather than charge the same fee for very differently sized rooms.

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

M.B.E.

What a momentous start to the year as one of our own, born and bred in Greatham, was recognised in the New Year Honours list. Dorothy Clark has been awarded the M.B.E. for services to the community. A more worthy recipient it would be hard to find. Rare is the day when Dorothy is not doing something to the benefit of the community whether that be on the phone, on the street or in the community centre. She is a very familiar sight around the village either picking litter, sweeping up, weeding or planting. At most events in the Community Centre she will be the first there to set up and the last to leave on clearing up.

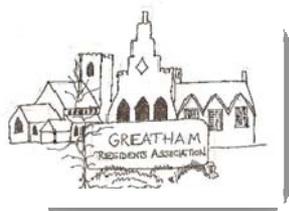
Chair and Booking Secretary of the Community Association, Chair of Greatham in Bloom and a founding member of the Residents Association, she certainly leads by example being always in the thick of any work that needs doing. Founder of the Neighbourhood Watch in Greatham, she single handedly kept it going, representing us on the Borough Neighbourhood Watch Group, she became the channel through which the police were kept informed of crimes and problems in the village. Never was she afraid to tell authority what she thought, balanced by being equally quick to praise and thank. In her 80s she has shown little sign of taking it easy despite problems with arthritis and other health issues.

Her friends, of which it is no surprise she has many, will know that she is remarkably never short of time to help them, quick to volunteer support and respond to requests for assistance. She never counts the cost of running around or doing messages.

Heartfelt congratulations to a wonderful lady who the whole community are lucky to have at hand and can be proud of.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Greatham Residents Association Committee Members:



Malcolm Thompson – Chairperson
Andrew Merifield – Treasurer
Dorothy Clark
Sheila Kell
Margaret Hammond
Andrew Rees
Linda Dempsey - Secretary

Greatham Exhibition/Archive

Greatham Residents Association (GRA) is planning to hold an exhibition of memorabilia for ‘bygone Greatham’. It is anticipated that the Community Centre will host this event over 2 days, at a date yet to be agreed.

In addition to needing old photographs/videos/cine films/ or any other medium or interesting information about Greatham we would like to hear from anyone who has a laptop and a scanner who would be willing to assist in reproducing documents for this exhibition, or any keen photographers who would be willing to assist.

We are aware that many old pictures, photographs and other interesting information gets passed down through families who no longer live in the area so as well as holding an exhibition we are trying to produce an archive of memorabilia to preserve for future generations.

If you have any pictures/photographs or any other interesting information or can help with this please contact any member of the GRA or use the ‘contact us’ tab on www.greathamvillage.co.uk.

Fencing on Village Green

The fencing around the village green is once again in need of repair and maintenance and as this is an ongoing issue it has been proposed that the current fence be replaced with a more substantial material which will last for many decades to come. This will reduce the need to continually raise funds to carry out this work.

Permission to carry out this work is being sought from the Hospital of God, who own the green, but regardless of what material is used the fence is in need of repair and several companies have been approached to assist with funding for this. In addition we are hopeful of a successful outcome to the grant applications which we have made.

Greatham Village Website

The website continues to be used regularly and is continually updated with forthcoming events and relevant information. The site is averaging 300 hits per month.

Automated emails are sent out to those registered to notify them of updates to the site, if you would like to receive an automated email please use the ‘contact us’ tab on www.greathamvillage.co.uk. Your details will not be passed on to anyone else.

CHURCH NEWS

The Coffee Morning held in Greatham House in January raised over £550. Thank you to all who helped make this so successful and enjoyable an event.

GREATHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

Another smooth performance by Greatham Village Players in this year's pantomime Puss in Boots. The lead role of Puss (Kitty Quette) was purrfectly (sorry couldn't resist) taken by Lauren Price and her owner Jacques Quette was equally well performed by Kieron Johnson. Both these performers are also delightful singers and it was a pleasure to hear them. The final Quette, the dame played by Brian Price, was Hetti Quette (etiquette) and what colourful and exuberant outfits, and so many! Brian appeared to be thoroughly enjoying the role!! What Panto would be complete without a royal family, in this instance a slightly bumbling King Herbert played expertly by Dave Harrison and very fine Queen Mildred played by Claire Alderson. Chloe Middleton played their daughter Princess Alice. For one still so young she is a very reliable confident performer and manages to express a lot in her facial expressions. Now a couple of this year's cast came a little too close to taking the saying 'break a leg' too literally. Chloe was one who performed with crutches as did Kate Kenny who played Nopar King one of the trio of foolish henchmen. Applauds to them for their 'show must go on' attitude and managing to add a whole new twist to performances. The other two henchmen were Sophie Smith as Nosmo King and Ken Sharpe as Nojo King. As a trio they worked very well together but I must give special praise to Kate and Sophie for managing the very enthusiastic participation on the Friday night from the children during the singing competition between the two sides of the audience. Hugh Stitt has just the right imposing stage presence to play the baddy, in this case Lord Roger, and he can sing too! A good supporting cast was provided by Lauren Glen as the narrator, Hannah Fenwick as Jess and a rabbit, June Harmison as Dinah, Rachel Alderson as Munchkin, Herald, Royal Coach and Dragon, Leah Alderson as Ginger and a rabbit and Lauren Emmerson as Tabbitha and a rabbit.

No performance would be so enjoyable without the support of a backstage crew. These included Anthony Watson returning to his elevated position at the back of the hall in control of sound and lighting. Hugh Stitt dealing with music and sound effects while set production was in the hands of Anita Stitt, Brian Price, Gerald Watson and Keiron Johnson. Front of house and refreshments were provided by Carol Tweedy, Maureen Price and Jean Best. Prompt was Gary Best with very fine costumes by Jean Proctor and Anita Stitt and make-up by Rachel Alderson. Returning to choreography was Lauren Price, props from Sonya Hepple and Gerald Watson. Stage Manager's Assistance provided by Rebecca Watkins and stage crew Dave Todd, Adam Robinson and Gerald Watson. The play was adapted for the Players by Anita and Hugh Stitt who also managed to design the programme.

Thanks also go to sponsors solicitors Tilly, Bailey & Irvine, Ernie Pape and Greatham Garden Services as well as Martin Lamb and staff at Greatham Post Office for branching out to be the box office handling ticket sales.

The Players are always looking for new people to join their group. Whether you would like to perform or do the many tasks behind the scenes. Please give Anita Stitt a call on 01642 562109 and she will keep you up to date on future meetings.

SCHOOL NEWS

My memory of the all school performances I was involved in is that they were something of a trial. On being invited as Chair of the Parish Council and being able to attend the school nativity play this Christmas I was taken aback at how much joy the children radiated, not to mention what a wonderful performance they gave. It was an absolute delight. All credit to the children, the school and the many proud parents who were there that night.

THE NODDING DONKEY

The return of this memento of the salt industry is currently on hold but not forgotten.

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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	Christopher Dixon, 28 Wisbech Close, South Fens Irene Fraser, 29 Wisbech Close, South Fens 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
- Faded and missing double yellow lines

Added to the list are the potholes in Egerton Terrace near Whitehouse Farm and a pothole on the A689 at Sappers Corner.

Dog fouling continues to be a persistent issue. The only way to address this now is through enforcement. The Parish Council will pass on information it receives but Hartlepool Borough Council is responsible for enforcement and it would be speedier to report direct to them. If you have witnessed dog fouling or wish to report an area where dog fouling is a problem there is an online form. Alternatively, telephone Customer Services on 01429 523333. Please give as much specific information as possible, such as times and locations where the dog fouling occurs. It is an offence not to pick up dog faeces immediately. Failure to do so could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 or a summary conviction in a court of law of £1000.

Councillors Lamb & Ward are looking into the possibility of a leaflet to raise awareness of the Parish Council. This was initially raised because of the apparent lack of knowledge of the Parish Council among residents in the South Fens ward of the parish. It was however suggested that many people living in the village itself have little idea of what their Parish Council does.

LOST RIGHT OF WAY?

The definitive map, which is the legal record, did not show any of right of way along Thorn Tree Lane. To rectify this we need to prove that Thorn Tree Lane has been used by walkers during the last 20 years. If you have walked this lane during the last 20 years or more please help us secure the future of this route by completing a form. These are available in the Post Office and the Community Centre (kitchen counter), alternatively contact Brian Walker on 870281.

HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN



The long and detailed task of working through the responses to the consultation is nearly complete. It has taken far longer than we had hoped but it is important we consider all comments and do our very best to ensure we get things right. We may not please everyone but hopefully the plan will represent the wishes and hopes of the majority of people who live in the rural area.

SPORTS FIELD

The Sports Field e-mail address gsfa1997@gmail.com can be used for anyone who, for example, wishes to book the field.

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. 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.

Cleveland Police has received several reports from members of the public who have reported being contacted by 'an old friend' via Facebook before that person asks if they would be interested in making money quickly (usually around £1,000, but the amount varies). If the victim is interested then the suspect will advise them that all they need to do is take out contract phones (amount varies from 4 to 10 contracts) in their name. The scammer then claims that they will then meet up with the victim once the contracts have been taken out and takes them away to delete any information from the phone of any data linking to the victim. The victim is offered money in return for taking the contracts out, which is promised to be transferred into their bank account. The victim doesn't receive the money and doesn't get the phones returned to them, leaving them to pay the contracts on the several phones, some of which have contracts up to two years. Despite the suspect having committed fraud, the victim themselves have also defrauded the phone companies by signing up to contracts they have no intention of fulfilling.

It is important to be extremely vigilant and to report any suspicious messages of this nature to Cleveland Police on 101 or Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

ARCHIVE

The Streets in which we live can be read like a history book if you are observant. An excellent example of this is The Drive. The name of this street records the fact that this route was once the drive to the big houses behind the village – Grove House, the now demolished Ashfield House after which Ashfield Close is named and White Gates.

The drive was originally closed at Front Street by a pair of big wrought iron gates. No 5 Front Street looks different from the other houses in the street with its two gables sporting ornate barge boards that face Front Street and The Drive. This, along with the glazed porch which replaced an open porch, is a very typical architectural style for a lodge which would 'guard' the gates to the big house. For many years after the gates disappeared a brick wall remained alongside the lodge. There was no need to remove this because there were no properties on that side of The Drive until Greenside was developed in the 1970's. That, and the fact it remains the property of The Hospital, is why there is still no pavement on that side of the street.

Interestingly No2 The Drive, although set too far back to be much use as a lodge, is also constructed in a lodge like form with two gables and a porch in the angle between

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.

DIARY

- Saturday 19th March 10.30am-Noon Greatham History Walk with Steve Robins. Meet at the gate of St John the Baptist Church. To book a place ring Irene Cross on 01439 523100.
- Sunday 27th March 8am & 9am Easter Eucharists in Church.
- Saturday 2nd April 8am & 9am Greatham Village Players Table Top Sale in the Community Centre Also refreshments & tombola. To hire a table please contact Gerald On 01429 872940.
- Monday 11th April 6.30pm Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Public Welcome to attend
- Saturday 16th April 7.00pm Ukulele Band UkcLEAR Power in the Community Centre. Bar. Tickets £6 from Dorothy Clark.
- Thursday 5th May Polling Station in the Community Centre for the Police & Crime Commissioner and Ward Councillor elections.
- Monday 16th May 6.30pm Annual Parish Meeting in Greatham Community Centre. Hosted by the Parish Council but for all electors to raise issues and ask questions.
- Monday 23rd May 6.30pm Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Public Welcome to attend. AGM where Chair and Vice Chair are Elected by fellow councillors.
- Saturday 28th May 7.00pm Alison Neil returns to the Community Centre with a one woman Show 'Mrs Beeton, My Sister'. The interval will be followed by 'Fun With Food' (Greatham's answer to the Generation Game). Tickets £10 from Dorothy Clark

POSITIVE THOUGHT

You wouldn't worry about what people think if you knew how seldom they do.

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 Monday 30th May 2016
These should be sent to Brian Walker at 29 The Grove, Greatham

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

Annual Subscriptions to this newsletter are now invited

Please 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 years 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 5 Station Road.