

Village view



GREATHAM – SUMMER 2016 – No.96

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

Thank you for renewing your subscription - all proceeds go towards maintaining the work of Greatham in Bloom.

The Northumbria in Bloom judges return to Greatham for their second and final visit on Friday 22nd July starting at 10.30am. Please join the volunteers and your neighbours in showing the judges and all who may visit Greatham by what a wonderful place our village is.

A special litter pick took place in the field near Saltaire Terrace and the children's play area. The hedge back in this area had caught a lot of windblown litter and also been used as a dumping ground. It was a real eyesore and a danger to the stock kept there. The band of volunteers managed, with the help and support of the person now renting the field, to clear an amazing array of rubbish. We hope, now that it is clear, people will watch over it and prevent it returning to an eyesore.

The highly successful 'peculiar planter' competition, new in 2015, will be held again this year. This time there will be two categories, one for unusual ornamental floral planters and another for strange containers in which to grow your food. So turn your thoughts to unusual notions of what you can grow your flowers or vegetables in. It is planned to once again invite the Northumbria in Bloom judges to decide on the best. The competition will therefore take place on Friday 22nd July with planters to be brought for display in the Post Office Garden with kind permission of Martin.

The village garden competitions are also to be held this summer. There are three main categories – one for the best kept garden, a second for tubs/window boxes/hanging baskets/containers and a third for allotments/vegetable gardens. You can enter one or more of the categories. An entry form is available at the end of this newsletter. More forms will be available around the village - where posters are displayed. Due to requests we are trying to bring the competition forward therefore this year the closing date for entries is the end of June with judging in July.

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.

GREATHAM FEAST

It is very nearly time for the 555th annual Greatham Feast. This year it will run from the 23rd to the 26th June with all the usual mix of attractions and activities. Programmes will be dropping through doors in the village. There should be something for all ages so please come together in this great celebration of our community.

The Feast relies heavily on donations and the committee are very grateful to all those who support them throughout the year.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Great news – the Association has secured the offer of Landfill Community Fund monies from Impetus Environmental Trust of Haverton Hill Road who has set aside up to £38,711.60 for repairs to the Community Centre. The Association are most grateful to Impetus Environmental Trust for this boost as it will enable all the windows to be made good in one go. The plan is to replace 17 and repair one. The one being repaired is the only surviving window from the construction of the building in 1878 and remarkably appears to be in a good condition while the others are in various states of decay. The release of the funding required a 10% contribution from a third party. The Parish Council has agreed to do this thanks to the fact everyone has been so generous supporting the window appeal.

The selected window company, ERW, have had a cancellation and are able to slot us in early. The Centre will therefore close for one week commencing Monday 27th June (immediately after the Feast). Judging by the condition of some windows this is just in time! Please bear with us and hopefully you will agree it is worth the short interruption.

We are already looking at the next job in the restoration of the building. The floor of the main hall suffered greatly during the earlier building works and needs some urgent attention. We are in the process of getting an expert opinion and an estimate to repair and restore it to its former glory. The complete refurbishment of the toilets is also at the top of our list. Again we are looking at obtaining quotes.

While we anticipate the installation of new windows we look back at a year of broken panes due to the use of the Centre as a goal for football. The cost and disruption of having to patch and repair is bad enough but the danger that has been posed to those inside who have been showered with glass makes this a serious problem. Hopefully the new windows will help but as they are double glazed it means that if broken the costs will be much higher – and it is sadly the exception not the rule that those responsible come forward to apologize let alone offer to pay. We do not seek to prevent the green being used for play but to directly use a building with so much glass as the goal is not reasonable. Please discourage your children from doing so.

Ukclear Power (ukulele band) provided another joyful evening with song and laughter in the Centre on the 16th April. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves a great deal. Thanks to the generosity of the band, who provided their services completely free and all who attended a wonderful £579 was raised for the windows appeal.

‘Mrs Beeton, My Sister’ written by and starring Alison Neil came to the Centre on the 28th May. This is the third time Alison Neil has been to Greatham with one of her one woman shows. Again she did not disappoint providing an entertaining insight into the life of Mrs Beeton seen through the eyes of her sister. Following the interval there was a light hearted competition ‘fun with food’ organized by Judith Shield which was also enjoyed by the small audience. Alison Neil then returned out of costume for a much appreciated question and answer session.

It had proved difficult being a bank holiday weekend to sell tickets (and even some of the usual Centre crew were absent) but we still managed a cozy audience of 30 which covered the cost. A raffle on the night brought £55 to the Associations funds. Thanks go to those that worked and those that supported this night of theatre in the village.

For something a little different Emma of ‘Painted with Love’ a mobile paint your own pottery studio has hired the Centre on Sunday 17th July from 2pm to 5pm. This offers an opportunity for young or old to try their hand at making their own masterpiece. Think of your own unique design or utilize some of the templates and stencils available – just turn up, have fun and get creative. Cost depends on the items chosen to decorate.

		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		

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

M.B.E.

Dorothy Clark was presented with her M.B.E. for services to the community by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace on the 20th May. She was accompanied by her very proud son, Peter, daughter in law, Tracy and two grandchildren, Joe and Rebecca not to mention yours truly, Brian, a greatly honoured friend.

What with all the red carpets, gold leaf and soldiers standing to attention one could not help to feel very special and a little overwhelmed though the latter soon dissipated thanks to the very friendly, relaxed manner of the palace 'staff'. Recipients were quickly separated to be advised of procedure while guests were ushered to seats in the ballroom where a band played as they awaited the Prince to arrive. Despite claiming to be very stiff from all the standing involved Dorothy did all proud very smoothly taking her position in front of the Prince and the various uniforms around him including five Beefeaters and two Gurkhas. The Prince stooped to engage Dorothy in what seemed a long conversation with much head nodding and smiling. Dorothy confirmed Charles had been very easy to talk to.

Returning to the sunshine, the feeling of being a movie star continued. At the palace gates, awash with tourists, a guide with a party of Americans approached Dorothy to ask if she could help explain to the visitors what an investiture was and why she had been honoured. Much camera snapping later we all turned only to be confronted with a party of Japanese all armed with cameras. All in all a day never to be forgotten.

From Dorothy: - "I would like to thank everyone for all the cards and good wishes. The banner, which appeared on the Centre, from the village organisations, came as another huge surprise. In accepting the honour I do so on behalf of all the people in Greatham who help to make our village such a wonderful place to live."

YOUTH CLUB

A youth club operates in the Community Centre every Wednesday and Thursday from 7pm to 9pm. It is run by Hartlepool Borough Council Youth Service who provides trained staff. Serving 11 to 19 years olds there is the opportunity to get together with friends, join in arts & crafts, games, cooking, pool and discuss issues affecting young people. There is also the chance to take part in activities and residential or be involved in community projects. Interested? Call in and find out what is available.

CHURCH NEWS

The Coffee Morning held in church on the 21st May raised over £200. Many thanks to all who attended and helped to make it so successful.

The church outing on Saturday 16th July will be to Whitby. The coach will depart at 9.30am from the village, returning from Whitby at about 4.30pm. It is hoped to include a stop at a local church on the homeward journey. Cost is £10; please contact Yvonne Crone, churchwarden, to book a place.

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 VILLAGE PLAYERS

The Players are planning the revival of their Summer Concert, a most welcome return to the village calendar. The aim is to hold it on Saturday 9th July. The venue once again to be the Hall gardens with the kind permission of the Trustees of the Hospital of God. If you are interested in taking to the outdoor stage please contact Gerald Watson or Kieron Johnson.

The next pantomime, for January 2017, is to be Jack & Jill, a traditional family pantomime by Bob Heather and Cheryl Barrett. Auditions will take place at 6pm on the 21st June in the lounge of the Community Centre. If there is anyone who would like to join the Players please pop along. Full rehearsals begin on Tuesday 6th September in the Community Centre lounge. As well as performers there are opportunities for people to get involved behind the scenes, for example costumes, set painting, dance, props, etc. Alternatively ring Anita on 01642 562109 or have a word with any of the Village Players.

The Murder Mystery 'Murder at Wickle College' which took place in the Community Centre on the 30th April attracted about 75 people keen to solve the mystery. A light supper was served along with a raffle and mini auction. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was reported and enough money raised to fund the next pantomime. Many thanks go to all for their support.

SCHOOL NEWS

The school is flying a new green flag. The flag is awarded to schools that have undergone an independent assessment looking at how sustainability is integrated into the life of the school. The pupils are central to this and have to be involved through an Eco-committee. The Eco-school programme is part of Keep Britain Tidy and has nine key topics – energy, water, biodiversity, school grounds, healthy living, transport, litter, waste and global citizenship. Energy is the only compulsory topic, the others to address are chosen by the school's Eco-committee. The flag indicates the achievement of Greatham School and its Eco-club.

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	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 on the last newsletter but already completed are the potholes in Egerton Terrace near Whitehouse Farm and a pothole on the A689 at Sappers Corner.

Hope you all received you newsletter from the Parish Council. This was intended to raise awareness of the Parish Council which is known to be very low in the South Fens but even in the village there would seem to be a lack of knowledge especially among those moving into the village.

There have been two resignations from parish councillors representing South Fens, Irene Fraser and Christopher Dixon, both due to family and work commitments. Mrs Fraser's seat has already gone through the process of declaring a vacancy. There was no demand for an election or candidates therefore the Parish Council will be looking to co-opt. This process is likely to be repeated for Mr Dixon's seat if we can find people willing to take on the role.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Community Centre on the 9th May. This meeting is often confused with Parish Council meetings, partially because it falls on the Parish Council to organise it. However it is a meeting of the electors of the parish who can bring up any issue they may have. Usually representatives of the Parish Council, Borough Council and police are there to listen and to make presentations to inform the electors of what is happening in their area.

Mr Barry Coppinger the freshly re-elected Police and Crime Commissioner along with a PCSO started the meeting. There were a number of issues and questions fielded by them. Mr Coppinger also outlined 'Cleveland Connected', a safety messaging and advice system operated by Cleveland Police in partnership with other relevant community safety organisations, agencies and watch schemes. Messages can be received by e-mail, voice, text and social media. To get connected to this free service please visit the website at: - www.clevelandconnected.co.uk and click the join button. Once signed up you will be given the opportunity to tailor messages to your wishes by accepting or declining messages from community safety partners. You will also have the opportunity to join Neighbourhood Watch or other local watch schemes such as Rural Watch, Student Watch and Faith Watch.

This was followed by Ward Councillor Brenda Loynes and Mick Dunn, Enforcement Officer from the Borough Council who also provided information on current issues and answered questions. Notes were taken regarding concerns raised. Parish Council Chair Brian Walker gave an update on the progress of the Rural Neighbourhood Plan the guiding group of which he also Chairs.

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Consultation on the Hartlepool Local Plan Preferred Options Document has started and will run until the 22nd July. A copy of this weighty document is available to view in Greatham Community Centre, on the kitchen counter (please do not remove as others may also wish to look at it). The document can also be viewed on the Council's website. It is important that if you have any concerns or indeed wish to support any part of the proposals that you do so now. The sooner you make your comments the more likely they are to be able to be taken into on board.

HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN



The policies of this Neighbourhood Plan, adjusted in light of the consultations received, should be ready to go before the Regeneration Services Committee in September. There has been a huge amount of volunteer effort put into producing the Rural Neighbourhood Plan. The document will be made available to view in the various villages and on the Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan website. The next stages are for it to be examined by a planning inspector to make sure it is sound in

planning terms and finally it will be put before you, the electors of the rural area, in a referendum. At this point you can approve or reject the Neighbourhood Plan by a simple majority vote.

Please do take care not to confuse the Neighbourhood Plan with the Local Plan which is a step or two behind but coming forward for consultation at the same time. The Neighbourhood Plan is specific to the rural area, and produced by your Parish Councillors who have done their very best following extensive consultation to represent your wishes, not easy as planning is not a popularity contest but has to fit the rules set by government.

The Local Plan is produced by the Borough Council which invites comments but you will have no referendum veto on the Local Plan.

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.

There are numerous complaints made about off-road bikers racing through the village and the noise they produce. Please report incidents to Cleveland Police by dialling the non-emergency number - 101. The police promise action but they need to build up a picture of where and when incidents are happening.

LOST RIGHT OF WAY?

Thank you to those who have taken the trouble to fill in the rather clumsy form declaring their history of use of Thorn Tree Lane as a right of way. These will be used to support the application been made by the Parish Council to have this route properly included on the definitive map. If you would like to add your weight to the long term use of Thorn Tree Lane as a footpath it is not too late to complete a form – just contact Brian Walker on 870281 and he will supply you with the form.

WW1

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.

THE NODDING DONKEY

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

ARCHIVE

Recently someone researching their family tree was in touch. They asked about addresses in Greatham where their ancestors are recorded as living in the census. One couple was living in 1851 at The Square, Greatham, a decade earlier they had lived in West Row. Another relative in 1841 was recorded as a farmer and publican in East Row, Greatham. Neither The Square nor East Row exists as addresses in Greatham now.

The Square might be the area in front of Greatham House, now part of Front Street, which does form a very neat square, but this is a guess. It would certainly make a first rate market square alongside the main road and at the junction of the widening Front Street and High Street. Greatham was granted markets in the 15th Century, grants from which Greatham Feast can trace its ancestry.

As West Row suggests a row of houses on the west side of the village green, and the Norman village green would have likely stretched as far as the path from West Row to Egerton Terrace, this would suggest East Row would have been what we now call The Green and Chestnut Row. The latter of course having recently changed name from Station Avenue because post and deliveries were confusing it with Station Road. Parish Row also appeared at the same time and for the same reasons being previously part of West Row and causing several numbers 1 & 2 when Church Cottage and Illiad House were part of West Row.

Another 'lost address' is Prospect Terrace which was the top of the High Street beyond the Smiths Arms leading to Prospect Farm. Do you know of any others or do you have information to clearly identify The Square or East Row?

PARTY FOR THE QUEEN

At the time of going to press invitations had gone through doors to attend a village picnic on the green to join national celebrations for the 90th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This was Sunday 12th June from 1pm to 5pm. Hope you attend or enjoyed the event.

HAVE A FABULOUS FEAST

DIARY

Thursday 23 rd June	European Union Referendum. Centre lounge in use as polling station.
23 rd to 26 th June	Greatham Feast
Sunday 26 th June 9.30am	Patronal Service followed by Faith Lunch in the Church.
Monday 27 th June	Community Centre closed for 1 week for replacement of windows
Thursday 30 th June	Closing date for entries to village garden competition
Monday 4 th July 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Public Welcome to attend.
Saturday 9 th July	Provisional date for the Village Players Summer Concert in the Hall Garden.
Saturday 16 th July 9.30am	St John the Baptist church outing to Whitby £10
Sunday 17 th July 2pm-5pm	Painted with Love mobile paint your own pottery studio in the Community Centre.
Friday 22 nd July 10.30am	Northumbria in Bloom judging Greatham and unusual planters competition.
Monday 15 th August 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Public Welcome to attend.
Tuesday 6 th September 6.00pm	Village Players pantomime rehearsals start in the lounge at the Community Centre.
Monday 26 th September 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Public Welcome to attend.

POSITIVE THOUGHT

God sends the sun but man makes his own shadows.

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 31st August 2016
These should be sent to Brian Walker at 29 The Grove, Greatham

Produced for Greatham in Bloom with thanks to Huntsman, 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"/>
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Alderman Lyver Memorial Trophy (extra garden - tubs, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Armstrong Ross Memorial Shield (allotments/vegetable gardens)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 entry from Hospital of God property)

Please return forms to:- Greatham in Bloom,
at 29 The Grove or 5 Station Road.

or drop into the Community Centre letter box

Closing date: 30th June 2016, entry is free