

Village view



GREATHAM – AUTUMN 2017 – No.101

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

GOLD

GREATHAM AWARDED GOLD MEDAL IN NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM 2017

Congratulations and many thanks to you all on this fabulous achievement.

Our medal marks were:

Spring Judging	Silver Gilt
Horticultural Achievement	Gold
Environmental Responsibility	Gold
Community Participation	Gold
Overall	Gold

The judges, Mary Lou Downie and Ron McParlin gave this overall summary:

The village is weed free, clean and extremely tidy. The Judges were struck by how many of the residents have participated by planting at the front of their houses, creating an almost continuous flow of colour, not only along Front Street, but throughout the village. These many individual contributions supplement the well-kept and bright planting of shrubs and bedding by the Bloom Group and Hartlepool Borough Council.

Areas of achievement:

The village was exceptionally and consistently neat, tidy and clean. Ongoing bulb planting has built up over the years to create widespread and well-ordered spring colour. Although the snowdrops were over by the time of the visit, they have clearly been a successful theme and the focus of a substantial fund raising event for the community, drawing in many residents and visitors. Narcissi and the Bloom Group and Council's bedding provide plenty of colour at the centre of the village.

Areas for development:

The ponds at the Hospital of God are being renovated and, with their surrounding planting, have the potential to restore a peaceful and pleasant corner for the benefit of the residents. Rabbit damage to polyanthus bedding is an intractable problem. Alternative planting could be considered.

SUMMER JUDGING

SECTION A- Horticultural achievement

Areas of achievement:

The overall impact is of well-maintained and generous planting throughout the village. It is well-thought out and despite so many individuals being involved, succeeds in being harmonious.

Several areas benefit from well-considered and varied shrub planting plans, showing sensitivity to planting conditions and visual effect. They contribute positively to the consistency of the village's presentation. Noteworthy examples are the planting masking the unsightly telephone box, that on the corner opposite and a small strip of 'gardener's garters', a striking but invasive grass neatly contained within a difficult position nearby.

The grounds of the Hospital of God are a great asset to the village and its widespread involvement in many properties contributes to the consistent appearance of high quality maintenance.

Areas for development:

The Judges were impressed by the floral impact and hope this will continue in the future. Consider whether any of the village's allotment sites could be included in future Bloom entries.

SECTION B- Environmental responsibility

Areas of achievement:

Permanent shrub planting has successfully improved sustainability without loss of colour and impact, indeed thoughtful choice of shrubs means they are full of interest and variety. There is clearly a strong awareness of the village's interesting heritage, centred on the Hospital of God. The School's Eco Committee is a very positive indicator for the future and the children are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their vegetable and wildlife areas. Hartlepool BC's bedding plants are recycled where possible and bedding is grown from seed by a local resident. The shop window of a vacant unit is used effectively to display heritage and Bloom photos

Areas for development:

The current collection of an archive of heritage photos and audio memories will create a great, long- term resource for the community. This project is well-worth pursuing and we would very much support the idea of a Blue Plaque scheme and information stands to maximize its benefits. There are plans to enhance the pathway from the village to the old Salt Mines, to celebrate the village's industrial heritage.

SECTION C- Community participation

Areas of achievement:

Despite the incapacitation of a highly valued member of the team, the village has rallied round to support the Bloom Group. Increased use of Facebook has been important in this process and is an exemplar for other Bloom Groups to learn from. The Group is adept at communicating its aims and events, using the Church Magazine, fliers, posters, Facebook, the Village Website and the local paper. Everyone will be aware of the Group's activities. Encouraging individual children to take responsibility for a planter, container or small border has been very successful, both for the children's self-esteem and for the area's appearance. The Group has good links with local organisations such as Hartlepool Borough Council, the Primary School and The Hospital of God. The Sports Field is an excellent community resource and has benefitted from many recent improvements.

Areas for development:

Continue developing the use of Facebook. The village has some wonderful trees: The Group could consider developing a project for local children, recording them and drawing attention to them.

That concluded the marking of the village but Northumbria in Bloom had more for us. In recognition of her outstanding voluntary contribution of our own Dorothy Clark M.B.E. was awarded a well-deserved trophy. This was collected on her behalf by her brother Malcolm Thompson.

The residents of Shannon Court were also awarded a gold medal and a trophy as joint winners in the Residential Community category. The judges commented “this small courtyard of bungalows, grouped around a neat lawn, is enlivened by a mass of vigorous, healthy and colourful potted plants, climbers and perennials. The choice of plants is varied and inventive, including a graded ‘hedge’ grown in pots, a water feature and an almost tropical profusion of foliage and flowers.

Another gold medal in the Care/Residential/Convalescent Homes, Hospices and Day Care Centers category was awarded to the Hospital of God. The grounds present a most attractive setting for the residents and are an asset to the village.

The results of Greatham’s own garden competitions 2017 are:-

Greatham in Bloom Trophy (best kept garden)

1/ Mr & Mrs McNeil, Saltaire Terrace, 2/ Mr & Mrs Llewelyn, Front Street, 3/ Mr & Mrs Fleet, High Street

Alderman Lyver Memorial Trophy (window boxes, hanging baskets, tubs, yards, etc.)

1/ Mr & Mrs Llewelyn, Front Street, 2/ Master Hall, Queensway, 3/ Mrs Meakin, Front Street

Armstrong Ross Memorial Shield (allotments/vegetable gardens)

1/ Mr Bolland, The Drive, 2/ Mr & Mrs McNeil, Saltaire Terrace, 3/ Mrs Southeran, Spring Gardens

Trustees Trophy (best entry from Hospital property)

1/ Mr & Mrs Llewelyn, Front Street

The Joan Booker Memorial Shield (best floral display)

1/ Mr Coleman, High Street

Many thanks go to all who entered and made the competition worthwhile. It is a real delight to know there are so many diverse and attractive gardens in our village which are a true credit to those that tend them. There are many more we know who do not enter competitions, which is a shame because it promotes and encourages us all. The trophies above are judged by independent judges while those below are decided upon by the Greatham in Bloom Committee.

The Geoff Clark Memorial Shield (outstanding contribution to village entry in Northumbria in Bloom)

Master H. Hall. This young lad, having heard we were short of plants last year, grew bedding plants from seed some of which were used in the tub at the beginning of Queensway and to great effect in his own family’s garden.

The Miles Difford Memorial Trophy (recognizing special efforts/achievements)

Mrs Berry & Mr Marshall. This trophy recognizes the new seaside theme feature created in a Queensway garden which has caused people to stop and admire some real creative thinking.

The Jackson Memorial Plate (best non-domestic property)

The Community Centre

The Tioxide Award (outstanding contribution by an individual or group to the improvement/maintenance of the environment of Greatham)

Greatham Sports Field Association for the wonderful work maintaining and improving this valuable asset for the village and beyond.

The Bloom will be holding a celebration and presentation ceremony on Saturday 7th October at 4pm in the Community Centre. The whole village is invited to come along and rejoice in their beautiful community and the splendid achievements in this year's Northumbria in Bloom competition.

The Greatham in Bloom A.G.M. will be on Monday 9th October at 6pm in the Community Centre Lounge. Please come along and support us and if you are interested find out about joining the committee.

There is always room for more volunteers. If you would like to become more involved please come along to our A.G.M. on Monday 9th October at 6pm in the Community Centre or contact any member of the committee or have a word with us when you see us working around the village.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



The Residents Association held their AGM at the school on the 8th September. Malcolm Thompson resigned from the committee and his position as chair in view of his impending departure from the area. He was thanked for his sterling service to the Association since its inception.

Alan O'Brien was the newly elected chair. He will be joined on the committee by continuing members Linda Dempsey (secretary), Andrew Merifield (treasurer), Andrew Rees, Dorothy Clark, Sheila Kell and new member Michael Lawson.

The meeting was attended by ward councillor Brenda Loynes who addressed a number of issues raised by the Residents Association and those present. Also in attendance was a Police Community Support Officer who gave a report and listened to concerns, largely around traffic and speeding. Chair of the Parish Council Brian Walker and Irene Cross, Hartlepool Borough Council Community Cohesion Officer also attended.

An update was given on the village archive being organised by the Association with an exhibition proposed in the Community Centre in October. Anyone wishing to contribute memorabilia, photographs or memories is invited to contact any of the members listed above. Alternatively use the contact form on the village website or pop your details in an envelope addressed to the Residents Association through the letterbox at the Community Centre.

Welcome packs have been produced to help ease new residents into village life and perhaps join some of the activities. If you know of a property near you that is about to be occupied by someone new to the village please let a member of the committee know to ensure a welcome pack can be provided.

Work continues on fulfilling all the requirements for the replacement of the rail around the village green and answering the concerns of the landowner Greatham Hospital. There is money in the pot that would allow at least a partial replacement and this will hopefully be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

The village website, provided by the Association can be found at: - www.greathamvillage.co.uk

SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION

The Annual Classic Car Show attracted a lot of interest despite the weather being decidedly iffy. There was a good selection of vintage and classic cars as well as an impressive parade of scooters.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Community Centre is closed until the 1st October (reopening on the 2nd) to allow for the refurbishment works to the toilets. The new toilets will include an accessible toilet and baby change facility. The Associations Trustees apologize for the inconvenience but trust users will find the new facilities an improvement on the rather tired toilets previously available.

The Trustees are very pleased that Pat Cook has stepped forward to take on the role of company secretary for the Community Association. Pat is very well qualified to undertake this role and is already familiar with the setup of the company having been involved in its creation.

The Friday Exercise Class have organised another Ceilidh evening with a live band and caller. The last dance was filled with laughter, and it's even more fun if you don't know the dances! So ensure you get your tickets early. They cost £10 which includes a pie and pea supper. There will also be a raffle and monies raised will go to the Association's funds.

The Flower Arranging Group raised a splendid £355 at their Beetle Drive on the 15th June. This is another very valuable boost for Association funds for which Trustees are very grateful. On Wednesday 15th November they will hold one of their very successful quiz nights in aid of the Centre. The quiz starts at 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. Tickets are £6 from Anita Stitt (tel: 01642 562109) or Judith Shields (tel: 01429 870713).

An unexpected surprise was two donations given to the Association in memory of village residents. £92 was received in memory of Mrs Edith Durham and £160 in memory of Mr Norman Wilson. The Trustees are extremely grateful to the relatives of Mrs Durham and Mr Wilson for thinking about the Centre at such a sad time and to the relatives and friends who made donations.

GREATHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2017

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

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.

VILLAGE PLAYERS

Sadly the open air summer concert in the Hall gardens was not held this summer. Rehearsals are underway for the pantomime 'Sinbad the Sailor' which it is intended to perform in early January as usual.

INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH

A major refurbishment of the Chapel and Gray Memorial Hall (chapel school) to provide up to date facilities and serve the spiritual and community needs of the village is being planned. A survey has been circulated around the village to understand what might best be offered to develop an improved contribution to village life.

The church itself presently meet on a Sunday afternoon from 3pm to 4pm and everyone is welcome. From the 10th October Greatham Film Club will commence, showing family films every Tuesday at 7pm in the High Street Church. Doors will open at 6.30pm for refreshments. Admission is free to members and membership is free! Join at the door on the night of the film.

The Church are taking part in the Macmillan Cancer Support 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' on Friday 29th September from 10am to 1pm. Come along and enjoy a social gathering while raising money for a very worthy cause.

NEW EXPRESS BUS SERVICE

A new bus service means you can travel directly and rapidly to Dalton Park and Newcastle from Greatham! The service only operates on a Saturday leaving Greatham for Newcastle at 7.42am, 10.12am and 3.46pm. While the first bus starts in Stockton, the second two start at Greatham. There are picks up through Hartlepool as far as the Marina from where it continues direct to Dalton Park Retail Outlet. From Dalton Park it goes to Newcastle with only one stop at Testos Roundabout, West Boldon. The bus leaves Newcastle at 9.00am, 2.30pm and 5.15pm. The first two buses terminate at Greatham, the last continuing to Stockton. Special day return fares to Newcastle cost £8 or to Dalton Park between £4.50 and £6.00.

The service uses a coach which does means steps and that push chairs will need to be folded and stored away.

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.

LOST RIGHT OF WAY?

An application by the Parish Council to have the route along Thorn Tree Lane added to the definitive map is in progress. Notices placed at either end giving any owner of the lane the opportunity to make themselves known have now expired. We are now seeking to move to the next stage with Hartlepool Borough Council.

GREATHAM TALK

Hartlepool Civic Society has been providing a series of talks on the conservation areas in Hartlepool as part of a celebration of 50 years of conservation areas. The last of these talks given by John Taylor of The Society will be on Elwick and Greatham conservation areas. The illustrated talk will take place on Wednesday 27th September at 2pm in Hartlepool Central Library, York Road. Booking is preferred, contact the library to book on 01429 272905 or email central.library@hartlepool.gov.uk.

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	Don Cameron, 6 Aldeburgh Close, South Fens Allan O'Brien, 9 Station Road, Greatham Colin Richardson, 63 Mildenhall Close, South Fens (Vice Chairman) Michael Ward, 30 Wisbech Close, South Fens

The two empty seats for South Fens have finally been filled by co-option. Despite many appeals and searches it was only possible to find one candidate resident in South Fens. We also tried going beyond South Fens to the wider Fens area as it is permitted for people who live within 3 miles of the Parish boundary to be councillors of a parish. In the end we had to go for someone completely fresh to the council who, although resident of the village (which is within 3 miles of South Fens), was willing to represent the South Fens ward.

The person who keeps removing the dog fouling notice from the cemetery at Hill View is deluding themselves if they think this somehow removes the offence they give in allowing their dog free range to foul on the graves of others relatives. The disrespect is beyond belief and cannot be tolerated. All visitors to the cemetery are asked to keep dogs on lead and clear any mess they may deposit. If you see anyone not doing this please pass on names if you know them or details of times witnessed.

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

The pot holes in the road from The Hope & Anchor to Claxton Junction are, we have been assured, being kept under observation by the Borough Council with the aim of resurface the road under the 2018 budget.

The perch seat has now been installed in the bus stop. Thanks go to the Hartlepool Borough Council for assistance with the installation. We hope this provides some respite for those walking some distance to the stop and waiting for a bus.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Ward is working with the Borough Council to look at the possibilities of improving the accessibility to buses, in particular for those in wheelchairs. The current stops in the village have raised kerbs but these are very difficult if not impossible for buses to access. Any scheme brought forward will be subject to a consultation process.

YOUR RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The independent planning examiner has recommended to Hartlepool Borough Council that the Rural Neighbourhood Plan, subject to being modified by his recommendations, should proceed to referendum. Another function of the inspector is to consider whether the referendum needs to include people beyond the designated neighbourhood plan area because the plan will impact upon them. The inspector has however confirmed the designated area of the Rural Plan to also be the correct area for the referendum.

His modifications have been reviewed by the members of the Rural Plan Group, most were considered minor or beneficial with only one or two causing any concern. These concerns were however outweighed by the need to get the document 'made' – so that it can begin to hold weight with regard to planning applications. Hart and Dalton Piercy have both suffered from planning applications adding housing to the village which have met opposition, including objections based on the Rural Neighbourhood Plan. Until the plan goes to referendum it has however very limited influence.

Hartlepool Borough Council is now key in deciding whether the inspector's recommendations are acceptable and, if they are, putting the plan to the people of the rural area to approve or reject by a simple majority of those who vote in the referendum on the day.

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

SMITHS ARMS

A planning application is currently lodged with Hartlepool Borough Council. The proposal is to demolish the toilet block and convert the rest of the pub into two three bedroom houses. In the space opened by the demolished toilets and the adjacent tarmac area, as far as the car park ramp, new semi-detached three bedroom houses are proposed, each of these having space at the side for parking. The ramp would remain giving access to further parking for 6 cars (two for each houses in the former pub and one each for the new houses) with the rest of the current car park being turned into gardens for each house.

ARCHIVE

On the 12TH November 1799 several balls of fire or meteors were seen at Greatham, Stockton and the neighbourhood. According to the Rev. Brewster they were first observed between 5 & 6am in an eastern direction, and continued until daybreak. The atmosphere was very clear with a particularly bright full moon. The meteors first appeared as shooting stars which soon became stationary: they then, as it were, burst, and passed to the north, leaving behind them beautiful trains of floating fire in various shapes, some pointed, some irradiated, some in sparks, and others in large columns. The fire balls continued to fall for two hours, and were succeeded till nearly 8am by slight flashes of lighting. The general appearance was sublimely awful, particularly to Hartlepool fishermen then at sea. To some the sky seemed to open, and to display a number of luminous serpents; these soon after broke into separate balls which fell towards the Earth in a shower of fire.

Extract from 'The Local Records of Stockton and The Neighbourhood' by Thomas Richmond

Remembering all the concerns and excitement at the approach of the year 2000, this display must have been seen as ominous portents so close to the turn of the calendar to 1800.

DIARY

Friday 29 th September 10am-1pm	Coffee Morning in the Independent Methodist Church – part of the Macmillan Cancer Support ‘World’s Biggest Coffee Morning’.
Wednesday 4 th October 6pm	Autumn Fair at the school.
Saturday 7 th October 4pm	Greatham in Bloom Celebration & Presentations in the Community Centre – all welcome.
Monday 9 th October 6pm	Greatham in Bloom A.G.M. in the Community Centre Lounge
Tuesday 10 th October 7pm	Greatham Film Club first show in the Independent Methodist Church.
Saturday 14 th October 7.30pm	Ceilidh with live band in the Community Centre. Organised by the Friday Exercise Club in aid of Centre. Tickets are £10 which includes a pie and pea supper.
Wednesday 18 th October 6.30pm	Greatham Community Association Limited A.G.M. in the Community Centre. All users and residents welcome to attend.
Monday 6 th November 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend.
Wednesday 15 th November 6.30pm	Quiz in the Community Centre. Organised by the Flower Arranging Class in aid of Centre funds. Tickets £6.
Monday 18 th December 6.30pm	Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge. Public welcome to attend.

POSITIVE THOUGHT

If what you don't know won't hurt you,
a lot of people go through life without a scratch

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 Thursday 30th November 2017
These should be sent to Brian Walker at 29 The Grove, Greatham

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