

Village view



GREATHAM – WINTER 2016 – No.98

**A Merry Christmas and very Best Wishes for the New Year
are sent to all our readers from all contributors to this newsletter**

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

The coffee morning on the 28th November raised £234.60. Many thanks go to all who donated, worked and attended to make the morning such a success.

Our main fund raising event which also showcases our village far and wide is Snowdrop Day. This has been pencilled in for Sunday 26th February 2017. Do watch out for posters confirming details. We remain very grateful to the Trustees, staff and residents of the Hospital of God for allowing access to their wood to show off the spectacular spring display. We are also only able to run this event thanks to the many volunteers who offer a warm village welcome to our visitors. We would also love to see more villagers enjoying this open day, why not invite family and friends to come and see what a wonderful place you call home. There is always room for more helpers if you would like to get involved – see the end of this article for contact details.

Three new troughs have been purchased from Amberol. They are earmarked for the tarmac area to the side of 7 Greenside where they will finish the view along the green with a floral flourish.

On the approach to the village from Claxton regular seasonal work continues to fill in gaps in the hedgerow. Some of the young hedge plants were provided free of charge by the woodland trust and others bought by 'The Bloom'. More Daffodil bulbs have been purchased and planted so that the approach to the village might herald a place loved and cared for.

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.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Greatham Residents Association (GRA) held an open meeting for village residents on Monday 7th November 2016. The meeting hosted speakers from the Hart Historic Society and from HVDA.

GRA are hoping to invite further speakers to future meetings and would be interested to know of any topics that residents would like covered.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The 'old' charity known as Greatham Community Association, registration number 1110207 has now been closed. Greatham Community Association Limited, registration number 1150667, which has been running the Centre since 2013 continues to cover the work of keeping the Community Centre up and running.

The AGM of Greatham Community Association Limited on the 23rd September had only one non-trustee in attendance. A little disappointing that there was not more interest but fortunately as only members of the limited company can vote (which currently stands as only the Trustees) the meeting was able to proceed.

Membership of the Limited Company is different from the subscriptions paid by Centre users. Membership of the Company carries responsibilities to the Company such as attending general meetings.

The following Trustees, who were due for election, were returned: - Judith Shield, Michael Unwin, Brian Walker, Keith Watson and Bob Emmerson. These plus Dorothy Clark, Sonya Hepple, Jean Jones and Muriel McIntyre continue to be the Board of Trustees.

Quotes are being sourced for the toilet refurbishment. It is hoped that this work can be organised sometime in the first quarter of the New Year. Unfortunately it will once again be necessary to close the Centre while the toilets are out of commission. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause and we will strive to keep disturbance to a minimum and give everyone as much notice as possible.

The Community Centre has been the proud recipient of the Hartlepool Civic Society Rose Bowl in recognition of the restoration work undertaken on the Centre. The building is a very important feature in the Conservation Area situated as it is on the village green. The careful and considerate work which utilised the correct materials, natural slate roof and wood windows, means this locally listed building can not only continue to provide for the community but contributes to the quality of the built environment and village heritage. Certificates were also provided for Ian Hutchinson of Leveline Builders, Geoffrey Robinson the heating contractors, ERW Joinery the window company, Johnson Flooring who restored the floor and Dave Wilson the decorators.

As marks on the new windows clearly reveal they continue to be at risk from being used as a goal for ball games. To try and reduce the risks and potential for youngsters getting into trouble a small shrub bed is to be positioned in front of the windows to provide a buffer between ball games and glass. It will not interfere with the proper use of the village green nor separate the Centre from it but hopefully provide a little space for thoughtfulness.

The quiz night hosted by the Flower Class on the 29th October was not only a very enjoyable evening but raised a fabulous £666.00 for the Community Centre. This will go towards the upgrade of the toilets. Many thanks to all involved for your hard work and to everyone who supported the event.

The celebration of Lancelot Brown's life in the form of the theatrical production Capability Brown: The Eye Catcher was well received when it was performed in the Centre on the 22nd October. It was a lively and humorous race through the life and times of England's foremost landscape designer presented by actor John Cobb. Mr Cobb not only introduced us to Capability Brown from his childhood onwards but to some of the larger than life characters that littered his progress to being the "must have" designer of any aspirational landowner.

The next production in association with Rural Arts will be a musical one with Ian Sherwood on the 7th May 2017. He is billed as a rising Canadian Star whose music dances the line between folk and pop. He was named contemporary singer of the year 2013 in the Canadian Folk Music Awards and male artist of the year 2012 in the Acoustic Music Awards. Tickets will be £10 (under 18s £8). So make a note in your diaries.

		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		

Please note the Centre will be closed from the 27th December to the 16th January. This is to allow for the erection and dismantling of the stage and the Pantomime performances.

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

CREATIVE WRITING CLASS

A new class will be run weekly in the Lounge of the Community Centre on a Saturday morning from 10.30am to 11.30am starting on the 21st January. It is aimed at children between the ages of 7-14. The classes will cover many aspects of creative writing, helping to improve English skills overall, and will include things such as poetry, plot, character, structure and editing. The cost will be £2.50 per child to cover materials. There will be an opportunity for parents to speak about tutoring etc. and children's progress before and after the session.

This class is being brought to the Centre by Sara Dobson who is a published writer. You can contact Sara directly for further information on 07479932063 or sldobson@hotmail.co.uk. Sara will be showing examples of her work and, as a private tutor, offering discounted private tuition for anyone who attends the classes.

Children will also have the opportunity to publish their very own book, following a week by week plan from start to finish. This will be optional for a small fee, but people of all ages are usually very excited and motivated by the prospect of seeing themselves in print, which is a wonderful achievement.

Then in the summer an anthology will be published to include student's poetry and short stories, which can be purchased by all. There will be awards and prizes throughout each term for writing, reading and creativity.

Sara is also taking enquiries from adults interested in creative writing with a view to offering a second class.

GREATHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

Greatham Village Players are pleased to present their latest pantomime Jack & Jill by Bob Heather and Cheryl Barrett. Tickets will be on sale shortly for performances on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th January 2017.

GREATHAM FLOWER CLASS

Greatham flower class would like to thank everyone for supporting the Quiz night on Saturday 29th October 2016. The event which was held to raise funds for the Community Centre raised £666 and was greatly supported. It would not be possible to raise this money without the generosity of our supporters who donated food, raffle prizes, bought tickets etc.

First prize was won by team Back Right who kindly returned the prize money. The losing team Phoenix won the wooden spoon. So thank you once again to everyone who provided support to the event.

GREATHAM FEAST

The Feast will once again be hosting an extra visit to Greatham by Father Christmas himself. A special treat especially as this is on Christmas Eve, Santa's busiest time. His tour of Greatham will start outside the hairdressers in Front Street at 4.30pm from where it will continue calling at The Grove, Tall Trees, The Green, Station Road, Hill View, The Station and Saltaire Terrace. Village children will all receive a special gift from Santa.

A special Christmas draw is being held and entry tickets have been dropped through village letter boxes. Fill in your name and address with £1 and return to the Bull & Dog, Whitfields or the Post Office for a chance to win a cash prize.

No Christmas Market this year therefore there will be no bottle collection round the village. The Feast Committee would however welcome any donations that can be used as raffle prizes, etc. at future events.

Sadly the Feast Christmas Party Night for grownups on the 10th December has been cancelled. Too few tickets were sold to make it viable.

The Feast is not a registered charity but relies heavily on the generosity of village residents to continue to run events like the Feast and Santa Float. The Committee cannot express enough how grateful they are for your support.

SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION

The Association are in the process of negotiating to renew the Lease for the sports field with The Hospital of God. A price for supply of water to the field is also in hand along with meetings to get a price for sewerage work.

The next meeting is on January 26th 2017 in the back room of the Bull and Dog with a 7.00pm start. People are welcome to attend.

GREATHAM POST OFFICE

Apologies must be given, but due to insufficient customer demand, from Thursday 1st December, the Post Office and shop new closing times will be 8.00 pm Mon - Sat. Sunday no change 2pm. Please keep your Post Office open.

Please bear in mind the Village Post Office can process most banking needs, (If you use alternative ATM or Bank you are potentially closing the Post Office). One trip to the Post Office to use the cash facility has the potential to help keep it open. Please Support Your Local Post Office.

Martin

GREATHAM SCHOOL NEWS

The Autumn Fair was a very busy event which raised an amazing £1,120. Many thanks go to all who all who gave so generously and worked so hard as well as all who came and supported the school on that evening.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Just a word of congratulations to those who have provided the village Christmas Tree. It looks splendid. Yet another wonderful example of village spirit as this is made possible thanks to voluntary efforts.

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

Two seats continue to be vacant for South Fens on the Parish Council. Still nobody has come forward with an interest in serving the South Fens area.

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 double yellow lines
- Pothole at the A689 Sappers Corner junction.

The Parish Council is working on providing a pair of seating blocks which will be placed in the opening of the bus shelter but which will continue to allow access into the shelter. This is a compromise as the Parish Council feel seats within the shelter present problems which would lead to them not being used and the Borough Council do not wish to locate seating outside on the pavement where they may cause problems for neighbours. An initial problem is to find a way of manoeuvring the heavy blocks into place and a concern of the Hospital of God regarding insurance liability.

The Parish Council is pursuing the Borough Council regarding the state of the wall which separates the 'basketball court' and adjacent triangle of grass. Either repair or removal, but not to leave as it is in an intermediate state.

LOST RIGHT OF WAY?

An application by the Parish Council to have the route along Thorn Tree Lane recorded as a public right of way on the Definitive Map will be presented to Hartlepool Borough Council early in the new year.

HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN



Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan was noted by the Planning Committee on the 21st September and finally went to the Neighbourhood Services Committee on the 16th November where it was endorsed. It was agreed to move the Neighbourhood Plan forward to the next stage which is an 8 week consultation. Unfortunately this was not scheduled to begin until mid-February, the reason being to enable the Local Plan to go out for its next consultation first. Concern being that people will confuse the two plans, which has occurred.

To people in the rural area it will seem like you are in a constant state of planning consultation, but please bear with it. The Neighbourhood Plan does benefit from being based on your views from the start. This should be the last consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan so please participate. It is as important to express support as it to raise any concerns or objections.

After the consultation an examination of the plan by an independent planning inspector takes place. They will check that it has been correctly prepared, fits with planning regulations and could suggest adjustments. If all goes well the Rural Neighbourhood Plan will be the subject of a referendum. At this referendum if a majority votes in favour the neighbourhood plan will come into force and guide the future development of our area.

THE NODDING DONKEY

The idea of returning the salt pump to Greatham as a monument to the very important salt industry is being pursued again. Currently it is in store having been dismantled from its previous location behind the former museum at Sir William Gray House in Hartlepool. The proposed site for the pump is on the verge between Saltaire Terrace and Hill View where there is a space between the trees into which it would neatly fit (see sketch below). The location would link to the origin of Saltaire Terrace as housing for Cerebos salt workers.



The project has grown to include looking at the possibility of providing a number of information panels through the village which could tell some of the history and explaining features such as the salt pump. Also being considered are a couple of blue plaques to record famous residents such as Henry Baker Tristram the Victorian author and ornithologist and Sir William Gray, ship builder.

The project is in early stages as we consider what to highlight and there is much to do pulling information together, seeking necessary permissions and finding the money to pay for it all. It would however be a wonderful way of celebrating the rich history and traditions of our village.

All this links well to the idea of Greatham Residents Association to create an archive for the village where old photographs could be preserved for future generations along with other information that all too often can be forgotten and lost.

WW1

It is hoped work on this supplement to Greatham Home Front, which recorded some of the effects of the Second World War on our village will be able to step up a pace in 2017.

GREATHAM WAR MEMORIAL

Greatham's War Memorial has been added to the national list of 'buildings' of architectural or historic interest by Historic England. It is designated as grade II. The reason for listing is the historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this local community, and the sacrifice it has made in the conflicts of the C20, and group value with the Church of St John the Baptist (Grade II*).

Greatham War Memorial was unveiled on 16 July 1922 by the Archdeacon of Auckland. It commemorates 13 local servicemen who died during the First World War. The memorial cost £140, raised by public subscription. Following the Second World War a further 13 names were added of the fallen from that conflict.

The memorial is described as standing in the NE corner of the churchyard of the Church of St John the Baptist. It takes the form of a granite Celtic cross with a reversed sword carved in low relief on the front face. The cross stands on a tapering plinth, rectangular on plan. The memorial stands within an octagonal gravelled area, defined by a low stone kerb and approached by a rake of stone steps leading up from the path to the north. The steps are flanked by dwarf walls with flat stone coping and ball finials.

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.

Messages from Cleveland Connected:-

The dark nights have drawn in and officers are reminding people to ensure that their homes are bright at night to help prevent potential burglaries. People across Cleveland are being encouraged to use timer switches or to leave lights on when they're not at home.

Figures show that between October 2015 and March 2016, when the darker nights set in, there were 1270 dwelling burglaries across Cleveland. Detective Chief Inspector Chris Downes said: "It is really important that people ensure that their homes are well lit when it's dark outside as it helps to deter potential burglars from trying to gain access to homes. Simple steps such as leaving on a light when you go out can be enough to prevent your home from being targeted. It is also important to keep valuable items out of sight and to keep all windows and doors locked as this will also prevent burglars gaining access to your home." Further crime prevention advice is available on the Cleveland Police website and on Facebook or Twitter.

Between now and Christmas there is a rise in reports of poaching. If anyone has any information about this illegal activity please contact us at ruralcrime.webmail@cleveland.pnn.police.uk or ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 to help us tackle, disrupt and prosecute those involved.

Poaching is not some old pastime that involves 'one for the pot' this can be organised gangs who go on to commit burglaries of Farming Equipment, Quads and the slaughter of livestock etc and need to be stopped

Please help us stop these CRIMINALS as part of our Rural Watch and help make your communities a safer place to live and work

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

The next stage of consultation on Hartlepool Local Plan is expected to start in December. This is subject to approval from the Regeneration Services Committee which met on the 2nd December. The lounge at Greatham Community Centre has been booked for a consultation event on Wednesday 18th January.

Residents of Hartlepool are being urged to help shape a strategy for making the town cleaner and greener. The quality of the environment directly impacts on how residents and visitors feel about the area. It also affects businesses and investment. Dropping litter in the street or allowing a dog to foul without cleaning up also has major cost implications for the Council and therefore rate payers. In 2015/16 litter-picking and fly-tipping squads collected 1,832 tonnes of rubbish.

The Council has worked to improve education and awareness but continue to receive reports of environmental offences. During 2015/16 there were: 124 abandoned vehicles reported, 138 dog fouling reports investigated with 14 fixed penalty fines issued, 73 graffiti reports, 110 reports of drug related litter and 96 fixed penalty notices issued for littering.

With on-going Government cuts the Council needs to find ways of cutting costs while maintaining services as much as possible. The Council's aim is to encourage "active citizenship" within local communities and the draft strategy includes a proposal to develop a new Charter outlining how all parties need to work together to achieve a more pleasant environment. The on-line consultation, which runs until January 2, can be accessed on the Borough Council's web site by searching for the Clean and Green Strategy.

ARCHIVE

Oh! How the TV has restricted communal entertainment.

Gone are the days of the village band which used to practice in their own band room. A tardis like structure, the large practice room within hardly hinted to by the simple exterior with a door off the back path that opened to a small lobby with toilet. Only three walls remain of this cultural centre in corner of the garden behind 12 The Grove. On a pre-1883 map the band room is indicated as a Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan).

Recalled among the bandsmen of the 1940s were Mr Glew who played the E-flat bass, Trevor Hauxwell, double bass, Bill Dowsing, cornet, Tom Dowsing, euphonium and Bobby Crowe, trombone. The band used to lead the Feast parade – in fancy dress of course. My only real memory of the band is Bobby Crowe leading the parade dressed as Friar Tuck. Sadly the band fizzled out in the early 1960s.

Another musical entertainment was provided in the Bottom House (Hope & Anchor) in the 1930s with gramophone record concerts. Harry Glew's grandfather would take him along and sit him on the end of the bar. There would be a theme each week – brass bands, orchestral, singers, etc. Votes would be taken on each record and the winner (presumably you brought your own record) got to choose the following week's theme. Hit parade is nothing new.

As a child of the TV age I can now guess at the feeling of loss of those communal pleasures. Not even going into computers and mobile phones, it seems regrettable to me that the family gathering around the TV and sharing the laughter and other emotions, even with the arguments over what to watch, has been lost with a TV in every bedroom. Perhaps central heating has some share in the blame?!

Many thanks to Harry Glew for his memories of a Greatham which inspired this issues of archive.

DIARY

Monday 12 th December 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Public Welcome to attend.
Saturday 24 th December 4.30pm	Santa commences special tour of Greatham escorted by the Feast Committee.
Monday 26 th December Noon	Greatham Sword Dance and Play performed by the Redcar Sword Dancers at the Hall Gates, Front Street
11 th to 14 th January	Greatham Village Players present Jack & Jill, a pantomime In the Community Centre
Wednesday 18 th January	Hartlepool Local Plan Consultation in the Community Centre Lounge
Saturday 21 st January 10.30am	Creative Writing Class for 7-14 year olds in the Community Centre Lounge
Monday 23 rd January 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge Public Welcome to attend.
Sunday 26 th February 1.00pm	Snowdrop Afternoon in aid of Greatham in Bloom Entrance tickets and refreshments in the Community Centre
Monday 6 th March 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Lounge Public Welcome to attend.

POSITIVE THOUGHT

Home is the chief school of human virtue

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 Tuesday 28th February 2017
These should be sent to Brian Walker at 29 The Grove, Greatham

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