

Village view



GREATHAM – AUTUMN 2015 – No.93

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

ITS GOLD AGAIN!!!

Many many thanks to all volunteers, residents and supporters whose hard work made this wonderful result possible.

The Northumbria in Bloom judges made their Summer visit on the 17th July. One of the judges from the Spring visit could not make it following an operation but Marianne Wells was joined by no less than the Chair of Northumbria in Bloom, Eileen Burn. Thanks to the wonderful work of so many residents they were able to walk around a spotless and beautiful village that just oozed pride. Exhausted regular Greatham in Bloom volunteers sighed in relief as the pressure eased.

The presentation in Berwick on the 15th September was attended by representatives of Greatham in Bloom. Certificates were presented by Sir Alan Beath the former MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed.

The following are the remarks and points from the marking sheet.

Spring visit

Overall Summary: Even at this time of year, Greatham sparkled with spring colour. Every small green space had well-cared for floral features. - Greatham is an unusual Village in as much as it is under the guardianship of the "Hospital of God", which was founded by the Bishop of Durham in 1273. It is still a great presence in Greatham, providing retirement homes for elderly. The Hospital itself has extensive, well maintained grounds.

Score 33 out of 40

Areas of Achievement: We admired the Village green with the Sculpture of the Sheaf Thrower, which was extremely colourful and was planted with drifts of successional spring bulbs ie. snowdrops, croci and daffodils. Opposite, a large densely planted, colourful flowerbed, in front of Greatham house caught our attention. - The use of a Bloom Display board in an empty shop, showing pictures of the Village was inspirational. -We were also impressed by the general community involvement supporting Village life and fundraising on Snowdrop Day and the Greatham Feast.

Areas for Improvement: It was unfortunate that the Wildlife Area had been destroyed by lorries carrying out repairs. The permanent planting around the telephone box is due to be tidied.

Horticultural achievement:-

Impact-e.g. design, colours, choice of plants, special features, presentation, innovation	14 out of 16
Horticultural practice-e.g. cultivation/maintenance, quality of plants, sustainability	14 out of 16
Residential and Community Gardening- e.g. residential, allotments, public buildings	14 out of 16
Business Areas and Premises-e.g. retail, leisure sites, farms, pubs, post offices, etc.	11 out of 16

Areas of Achievement: For our Summer visit Greatham's tubs, baskets and beds had been planted in more vibrant colours and together with the bunting strung across the street, which was used for the Greatham Feast, Greatham looked a charming place. On Greatham's Front Street the "Bloom" maintained flowerbeds around the Sheafthrower Statue and mature trees, planted with glowing Verbena, again looked eye-catching. The new stone trough at one of the two entrances to Greatham makes a colourful contrast to the Yew hedge behind. Grass verges are cut by Bloom Volunteers with their own mower as well as former villager who lends a hand. The Residents gardens are mostly very attractive some have eye catching colour schemes, like one in The Grove with white Canna lilies and white Hydrangea Bushes. Most of the plants and flowers used by Greatham in Bloom are amazingly raised from seed by one lady in her average sized greenhouse. Successful use of alpines an on understated gravel path at the Mill house and planting of busy lizzies along a public path by the same resident is an encouraging step of people planting beyond their gardens.

The council bed in front of Greatham house with its combination of Pelargonium, senecio, busy lizzy and blue lobelia will look stunning when the plants have matured. The Grounds of the Hospital of God are looked after by 3 Gardeners, who have created stunning circular begonia beds in front of the hospital. Displays like that are what makes Greatham look so special.

Areas for Improvement: The corner bed at The Grove, which is very attractive, would look even better with a bit more sculpting. The council shrub bed behind the Sheaf thrower Statue gives a rich green backdrop, but could do with a little tweaking. As providing bedding plants becomes more expensive, perennials and or small shrubs could be introduced here and there, providing interest through different colour or shape of leaves.

Environmental responsibility:-

Conservation and biodiversity-e.g. wildlife areas, natural habitat	6 out of 8
Resource management – e.g. recycling and minimising any harmful impact on the environment	6 out of 8
Local heritage- management and development of local and natural heritage	8 out of 8
Local environmental quality- litter, graffiti, fly-posting, dog fouling, vacant premises and areas etc.	8 out of 8
Pride of place-e.g. street furniture, signage, art in the landscape and hard landscaping	6 out of 8
	Total 34 out of 40

Areas of Achievement. In order to recapture some of Greatham's history a mosaic of a windmill which had stood nearby was designed and laid by the residents and Bloom workers. It is now complete and points the way to the allotments. Our route took us past the highly successful central reservation wild flower meadow which should attract a multitude of insects. - There was absolutely no litter, graffiti or dog fouling on our judging route

Areas for Improvement: - There are some plaques and signage in Front Street, but because of the special nature of this Village and it's rich heritage, we were looking for more information about the history of Greatham, which goes back to the 13th century. It would also heighten awareness and explain the significance of the mill mosaic to visitors.

Community Participation

Development and continuity - sustainability of the local bloom initiative and on-going projects	8 out of 8
Communication and education- e.g. community awareness, engagement with schools and young people and other community groups, press coverage, publicity materials	8 out of 8
Community participation- representative of the community's size and diversity	7 out of 8
Year-round involvement- schedules of events and supporting evidence of year-round activity	7 out of 8
Funding and Support- initiatives to secure on-going support including local business support	7 out of 8
	Total 37 out of 40

Areas of Achievement: The Primary School is helping with bulb planting. The Portfolio makes for good informative reading and backs up in word and pictures the activities of the Bloom group throughout the year. It also gives details of funding ie. from Greatham P.C., Nurseries help with discounts, but the biggest fundraiser is the annual Snowdrop Day, which takes place in the grounds of the Hospital of God. Residents are encouraged to look after areas close to their home and we actually witnessed Nikki clearing an area under a hedge. She and her daughter had already planted marigolds along a strip of verge. There is a quarterly Newsletter, which people subscribe to. Monies raised go towards the Bloom work. Residents are made aware of the Bloom campaign and judging days by flyers and posters displayed on notice boards. We enjoyed judging the "weird and wonderful garden planters" competition. It was not easy to find the winners. If you did not win this time, there is always next time. Good Luck,

Areas for Improvement: - There was some mention of the installation of a pump on the wetlands, the old site of "Cerebos" Saltworks. We look forward to hearing about the project. We hope that the Greatham Bloom Group can think of some more "weird and wonderful" ideas for their fundraisers, in order to keep Greatham the delightful place it is.

Total points awarded 172 (86%)

The sharp eyed among you will have noticed an error in the calculations for the horticultural achievement, the total being 67 not 68. This would not have altered our position and we are not sure whether the error is in the adding or with one of the sub-section marks.

There were two other gold medals in our category (mid-sized village), Moorsholm and Washington Village. Moorsholm won the category and also went on to win the trophy for the best overall entry! It does seem Greatham spurs others on because whatever category we are in the winner seems to be among the best in the competition. It used to be Warkworth in the larger village category, and they are still winning in that section. Both Moorsholm and Warkworth have gone on to do very well in the national competition.

Congratulations also go Mr & Mrs Llewelyn whose Front Street garden caught the judges' eyes. They suggested it be entered into the sub-category for front gardens where it obtained a wonderful Silver Gilt medal. This is a great result and thanks go to Windsor and Val whose garden is one of the gems of Greatham. The judges made these comments: There are planters and tubs, pots and troughs filled with flowers everywhere in Greatham, but this lovely front garden caught the judges' eye. The front of the house is partly hidden behind hanging baskets and the doorstep is overflowing with pots and tubs. The side return of the house has even more pots, tubs and containers bulging with annuals in vibrant colours. All flowers are grown in containers standing on flags or gravel. They are of good quality and colour combination. Looking more carefully this garden also has a fun element. Against the far wall, below a collection of different shaped mirrors stand a table and chairs with a bottle of wine. Is that the reward for the hard working gardener?

The new competition for weird and wonderful planters was a great success. 25 entries came up with odd and unusual things in which to grow plants. The Northumbria in Bloom judges were invited to pick the winners, and they took a great deal of time to inspect all the offerings. In the end the winner was Mr P. Sharp with his drum from the inside of a washing machine. Second was Mrs P. Difford with a watering can hanging from a hook (as if being poured) and third was Mrs D. Clark's frying pan. The judges asked that special awards be presented for the Llewelyn family's assorted childrens gardening toys and Bonnie Goodchild's planted eggboxes. Many thanks go to all who took the time to come up with some wonderful ideas. The display in the Post Office garden attracted a lot of interest from those passing by. I think it is safe to say this will be repeated next year so start thinking and searching for something different to use as a planter.

The village gardening competitions were judged on the 29th July – sadly one of those very wet days we 'enjoyed' this summer. The independent judges, Mr & Mrs Mills employed a new points based judging system borrowed from the Royal Horticultural Society. There were a number of new entries this year so some new names appear in the prize winners.

The Greatham in Bloom Trophy for best kept garden: -
1st Mr Emmerson, The Drive
2nd Mr & Mrs Watson, The Drive
3rd Mr & Mrs Fleet, High Street

The Alderman Lyver Memorial Trophy for tubs, hanging baskets, etc. :-
1st Mr & Mrs Llewelyn, Front Street
2nd Mr & Mrs Fleet, High Street
3rd Mrs Stonehouse, Front Street

The Armstrong Ross Memorial Shield for best allotment/vegetable plot: -
1st Mr Bolland, The Drive
2nd Mr & Mrs McNeil, Saltaire Terrace
3rd Mr & Mrs Watson, The Drive

The Trustees Trophy for best entry from a Hospital Property: - Mrs Coleman, High Street

The Joan Booker Memorial Shield for best floral display :- Mr Emmerson, The Drive

The trophies which are awarded by the Greatham in Bloom Committee are to be presented to :-

The Jackson Memorial Plate (for best non-domestic property) is this year to be presented to the Independent Methodist Church in the High Street for the colourful display to the front of the chapel.

The Tioxide Award (for outstanding contribution to the improvement/maintenance of the environment of Greatham) goes to the trio of allotment holders at the bottom of the back path between High Street and The Grove. Colin Richardson, Gordon Veart and Ronnie Westmoreland have not only created wonderfully productive and well cared for allotments but their care spills over their fences into the public realm. They have also helped improve the area around the windmill pavement including the construction of a raised bed.

The Geoff Clark Memorial Plate (for outstanding contribution to our entry in Northumbria in Bloom) goes to Malcolm Thompson and John Henderson who did such a marvellous job producing a video of the village entry in 2014 including the commemoration of the First World War. This was not only a great record of our beautiful village but raised valuable funds for the Bloom effort.

So on to next year? 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.

THE NODDING DONKEY

Less charmingly known as the Eldeco Le Grand Brine Pump, or the Greatham Salt Pump which used to operate on the Cerebos salt fields has now been dismantled by the Borough Council and put into storage. We have had a meeting with the Council regarding the proposal to relocate this to Greatham by way of a memorial to the important if now defunct salt industry. The likely location would be alongside the road between Saltaire Terrace (which was built for the salt workers) and Hill View. This land belongs to Hartlepool Council and as it is intended the pump would remain the property of the museum service fits well into the proposal. What needs to be organised now is funding for the relocation and renovation.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The Residents Association have put Greatham on the world wide web with an impressive website www.greathamvillage.co.uk It is full of information and news. Please make use of the website both to find out what is happening in your community and also to post information on activities.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Centre is now closed for the first phase of the long awaited refurbishment. The current scheme will see the roof and the heating renewed. We are most grateful to the Veolia Environmental Trust for their award of a grant of £47,608 to enable this work to proceed. The grant was awarded at their quarterly Board meeting on 8 June 2015, when over £820,000 was awarded to 27 community and environmental projects across the U.K. Grants are awarded through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Early in October we are expecting a hole to appear near the front door of the Centre as Northern Gas Network link the building to the gas supply. This alone has cost £2150.30 but will mean we can change from oil to gas to fuel the heating. Certainly a more efficient heating system will be most welcome this winter.

We do not as yet know how long the work will take but we hope this phase will be completed mid-October and the building re-opened. As the old roof is removed we will be able to see if there are any hidden problems caused by the numerous leaks we have had to contend with. It is however our aim to re-open as soon as possible and welcome users back to a more comfortable hall.

We apologise for any disruption this work will cause to both users and neighbours. We would also ask everyone to help keep an eye on the building and warn youngsters not to be drawn by the temptations of a building site right on the village green. Building sites are dangerous places and the last thing we want is anyone getting hurt.

Unfortunately a second application to another Landfill Communities Fund provider, Biffa, which would have paid for the replacement of the windows, has not been successful. We will however try other sources as the windows are now our priority.

Regarding the defibrillator introductory classes, unfortunately the ambulance service, who would run any classes, have been going through a number of changes and a full restructure so have been unable to commit to any dates due to uncertainties about staff. The defibrillator is very easy to operate and actually talks you through what to do but is only available after ringing for an ambulance in an emergency.

GREATHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2015

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

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

GREATHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

Although the Centre is temporarily closed the Pantomime is still on schedule. A cast is gathered, alternative rehearsal venue found and the performance dates pencilled in for the 6th to the 9th January back in the Centre.

CHURCH NEWS

The Garden Party and Summer Raffle Draw at Greatham House on the 8th August raised over £900 for church funds. Many thanks to all who attended and helped make it so successful.

SCHOOL NEWS

The Strawberry Fair held at the school raised a splendid £535. Entertainment was provided by the Hartlepool Ukulele Group. All the money raised will be help to pay for new playground markings. Many thanks go to all involved.

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.

SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION

On Monday 28th September the Sports Field Association holds its A.G.M. at 7pm. The meeting made use of the new changing facilities on the sports field.

The Sports Field Committee would like to thank Greatham Parish Council for a grant of £500 to our running costs, the Foyle Foundation for a grant of £3000, Sue Boddy and Greatham Feast for the donation of picnic benches and Michael Hanley for his care of the field. We also have a new sign board at the entrance to the field on which information is displayed at the entrance.

Kevin Cosgrave
Chair G.S.F.A.

An excellent day was held on Sunday 26th July to officially launch the new changing facilities on the sports field. Very fittingly the ribbons were cut by long serving (right from the beginnings in 1997) trustees Michael Unwin and Ronnie Westmoreland. A lot of work has gone into establishing this field from what was a dream for many years of getting back to playing sports in Greatham. 18 years on the facility is coming of age.

The facilities include a kitchen so refreshments can now be provided. Unfortunately there was only a porta-loo on site as the plumbing has yet to be fixed up..

Following the opening Greatham Bull & Dog FC played an inaugural match against Wolviston FC. Would like to say we won but sadly that was not the case – but I am told Wolviston are in a different league. The main thing was that the field was alive with the sound of enthusiastic players and their supporters. Long may this continue.

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

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.

Please note the new e-mail address for the clerk. Unfortunately his previous e-mail address was hacked and used for a scam where those on his contact lists receive a plea for help. In this instance it was for money to be sent to him in the Ukraine where he had supposedly lost all his money and passport! Any e-mail sent to check validity of the plea was intercepted by the fraudsters. Just another example of the way modern technology is hijacked by criminals – always be extremely cautious if being asked for money or bank and credit card details.

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 top of the bank opposite Hope & Anchor
- Pavement surface in The Drive between Front Street and The Grove
- Pavement on road bridge over beck
- Loose setts before entrance to Mellanby Lane
- Pavement on High Bank
- Faded and missing double yellow lines

Concerns have been raised about lack of seating available to older/disabled residents waiting for a bus. The area around the bus shelter in the High Street would be looked at along with the various alternative seats that might be used.

Concerns were also raised about the need to make use of the facilities provided by the Post Office to ensure it can remain open. Use it or lose it is the familiar phrase.

West Row had been promised a cul-de-sac sign to warn motorists who were mistakenly entering the street believing it lead somewhere. This was promised some time ago and would be chased up.

SOUTH WEST EXTENSION

Planning decision awaited?!?

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN



The consultation on the policies proposed by the rural neighbourhood plan has now closed. Residents, businesses and community groups are all included in the responses received. Also required to be consulted are so called 'stakeholders' which include regional and national organisations or companies. Members of the steering group are now hard at work going through all the responses and comments that came in.

Initially the response rate from residents and businesses in the rural area appears to be about 10%. We always hope for better but this apparently is not unusual for planning policy consultations. People unfortunately are inclined to wait until something happens when it is sadly often far too late to have the influence they might wish. Having said that, those who did respond show support for the policies put forward with about 70% either agreeing or strongly agreeing. As we go through each of the comments we shall see if the policies need adjusting and hopefully we can improve the level of support even more.

Also being collated is the information obtained from the Housing Needs Survey. This will be used to provide evidence of the type of housing needed in the villages and surrounding rural area.

The full policy document can still be viewed and downloaded on the rural plan website www.hartlepoolruralplan.co.uk . If you would like another form please ring Brian Walker on 01429 870281 or e-mail the parish clerk at johnlesliecunliffe@hotmail.com

WW1 NAMES

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

ARCHIVE

Extract from the travel diary of Miss Margaret Ashington Christoher - a visit from London to County Durham 29th October to 23rd December 1825. Her family had roots in Stockton on Tees where they spent most of their stay. At the time she would have been 24.

Wednesday 30th November. Went to Greatham Hall

Thursday 1st December. We met with the kindest reception notwithstanding our want of punctuality which generally occurs after a hunting morning. Met Miss Brewster and Miss Alison, two ancient ladies, and Mr Robert Stapyhton. I admire him much for his domestic and affectionate feelings.

Friday 2nd December. After breakfast attended morning prayers in the Chapel in the grounds. After some morning amusements, walked down the avenue (*a remnant of an avenue stretches in front of the Hall framing a view towards Roseberry topping*) to see the harriers cross the fields (*harriers are a type of hound usually associated with hunting hare*). Papa and George (*her 19 year old brother, soon to join his regiment in India*) amongst the hunters. Called on Miss Brewster at the vicarage – went to the 'Hospital of God', an establishment for thirteen old aged men, a very ancient institution, being founded in the thirteenth century. Old Captan Willoughby, wearing silver buckles on his shoes, is one of the inhabitants. In his desire to be decently buried, he has purchased his coffin and has it cased in matting and standing up by his bedside. He told us it was a 'good bit of wood'.

Mrs and Miss Hogg, Mr and Mrs Cartwright, the two Mr Gibsons and the Brewsters form the party. Papa left dinner exhausted and went to sleep up stairs. Hunting all day, duck shooting all night and hunting all the morning again is too much for the best constitution at forty-six. In the evening, music – a duet on the harp and piano, spoiled by an ad libitum flute (Mr Gibson). Back to Stockton 5 miles, later in the evening.

DIARY

Monday 28 th September 7.00pm	Greatham Sports Field Association A.G.M. in the Sports Field Changing Rooms.
Monday 5 th October 10am	Coffee Morning in one of the Greatham in Bloom prize winning gardens - Richmond Cottage, The Drive. Stalls & raffle. In aid of Greatham in Bloom
Monday 5 th October 7.30pm	Greatham Leek Club A.G.M. in the Hope & Anchor.
Monday 2 nd November 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre
Monday 14 th December 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre

POSITIVE THOUGHT

Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing because he could do so little
Edmund Burke (politician)

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 November 2015
These should be sent to Brian Walker at 29 The Grove, Greatham
Produced for Greatham in Bloom with thanks to Huntsman, Greatham Works