

Village view



GREATHAM – WINTER 2015 – No.94

GREATHAM IN BLOOM

The village garden competition presentation this year was held in the splendid setting of the walled garden at Ivy House, with many thanks to Pam Difford for hosting the event. Pam also provided a new trophy dedicated to her late husband Miles. This trophy was presented to four gents, Colin Richardson, Cyril Smith, Dave Harrison and Peter Dixon who came out to provide much needed extra muscle especially in preparing for the judges visit.

At the awards winners of the best kept garden Mr & Mrs Emmerson offered to open their garden for a coffee morning in aid of Greatham in Bloom. This was gratefully arranged for Monday 5th October. Refreshments and stalls including cake, plant, bric-a-brac and raffle were all accommodated. Despite a downpour the event raised a very valuable £196. Many thanks go to the Emmersons and all who helped and supported the event.

We have planted more hedgerow plants to fill gaps in the hedges on the approach to the village from the west. Most of these have been provided by the Woodland Trust through free tree packs which have been generously funded by their lead partners Sainsbury's, IKEA Family, players of the People's Postcode Lottery and Yorkshire Tea. This scheme will not only improve the attractiveness of the approach to the village but also help wildlife and the environment.

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.

LOST RIGHT OF WAY?

Following a fly tipping incident and a failed attempt to have the local authority do their usual good works clearing the rubbish away it came to light that the definitive map, which is the legal record, did not show any of right of way along the private Thorn Tree Lane. Yes there is a footpath sign pointing down the lane but that means little if the route is not on the definitive map.

The path around the Oil Tank Farm is shown on the definitive map as is the newer connection to the level crossing on Marsh House Lane which was established when RHM diverted the path away from the Marsh House Lane running through the middle of their site. How one reached the path to Graythorp before this without having a route along Thorn Tree Lane is a mystery?!

The process to rectify this requires, among other things, proving that Thorn Tree Lane has been used by walkers for the last 20 years. Forms are being obtained and will be made available in the village – look for posters. Alternatively contact Brian Walker on 870281 for a form. If you have walked along Thorn Tree Lane in the last 20 years or more please help secure this as a right of way for yourself and future generations by completing a form.

It has been a major upheaval but the work is now complete and the Centre can start to get back to normal but without the raining in and temperamental heating. Many thanks to all users for your patience. A big thank you goes to those who rallied round and came to help, especially clearing up teams getting the Centre ready to re-open.

As is all too frequently the case the assessment of the time for the current building works was under estimated. There was a slow start with the roof but for the heating engineers it was full steam ahead. Still however the hope of re-opening in mid-October was quickly dashed. The Centre opened for business again on the 30th November. A formal opening with representatives from the grant providers Veolia in attendance will take place on the 11th December followed by an open door at 5pm for anyone interested to come in and see what has been done.

The Centre now has a new gas central heating and hot water system. Hopefully this will prove more efficient and less expensive than the old and cranky oil fired system. We must wait to see if this proves true because the heating has also been extended. For the first time there are radiators in the corridor, store, kitchen and toilets. We expect heat will now reach the Lounge which previously played a poor second fiddle to the Main Hall.

Work on the new roof found the Victorian part of the structure to be remarkably sound. Sadly the same could not be said for the later flat roof extensions.

The next push is to replace the windows at a cost of about £30,000. Sounds a lot but we are applying for funding and will get there, even if we have to do it one window at a time. We will also be sending an appeal round the parish for donations. This reflects how the old school building was first built by public subscription. With your continued support we will get there and have a community centre to be really proud of and which will be able to serve this community for another hundred plus years.

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

GREATHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2015/2016

		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 the Dorothy as Booking Secretary on 870292.

THE NODDING DONKEY

Nothing further can be reported on the relocation of this relic of Greatham's heyday of salt production – hopefully the scheme can be progressed in the New Year.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Greatham Residents Association is hoping to hold an exhibition in the near future of photographs and memorabilia of 'Bygone Greatham'.

This will include a massive photographic display and a cinema showing old videos of Greatham. It is anticipated that this event will run over 2 days (Saturday and Sunday).

In order to achieve this we need your help to provide photographs, videos or memorabilia from the past. The intention is to copy/scan all photographs for return to the donors, this will entail a one day session in the Community Centre where we will set up a team with the necessary equipment to scan the photographs. Your help is needed together with your computer/scanner/printer for a date yet to be agreed.

Active Greatham: A team of volunteers is needed to undertake small tasks around the village to improve items such as:

- The lost footpath along the old Stockton Road (along from the beck).
- Some organised litter picks
- To assist in the re-decoration of the Community Centre after the current works

Even 1 hour of your time will be appreciated.

If you can assist with any of the above please give your contact details via the Greatham Village website: www.greathamvillage.co.uk or to a member of the GRA.

Greatham Residents Association Committee:

Malcolm Thompson – Chairperson

Andrew Merifield – Treasurer

Dorothy Clark

Margaret Hammond

Sheila Kell

Andrew Rees

Linda Dempsey - Secretary

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.

GREATHAM VILLAGE PLAYERS

Greatham village Players pantomime this year is Puss in Boots by Damian Trasler, David Lovesy and Steve Clark. Performances are 6th, 7th, and 8th January 2016 commencing 7.00pm doors open at 6.30pm and Saturday 9th January 2016 commencing 6.30pm door open 6.0pm. Tickets are £4.00 for adults and £3.00 concessions and children and will be available from Greatham Post Office from 8th December. Hope to see you all there. A Merry Christmas to all from the cast and crew of "Puss in Boots".

SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION

Following our AGM, we would like to thank Andy Merifield and Alison Harmison who due to other commitments have relinquished roles of treasurer and secretary. Both put a lot of time into the sports field and will stay on the committee, continuing to greatly help out. Andy has been a superb treasurer and Alison does so many little jobs for the field, we will be watching out for the daffodils her and Cath have planted, Alison is always keeping an eye out and is going to look into exercise equipment we hope to fund. Luke Mulcahy stands down from the committee, but we appreciate his continued efforts. He will continue to maintain the tennis court. The committee is now Kevin Cosgrave (chair) Ronnie Westmoreland (sec) Jayne Sickling (treasurer) Michael Unwin, Alison Harmison, Michael Harmison, Andy Merifield, Lee Hammond, Viv Harmison, Steve Hadfield, Natalie Downes, Mark Sickling, Barry Measor, Cath Measor and back on after a 10 year absence; Paul Davis. Thanks to all the above, who all give their time for free and contribute towards the asset that is our field.

2015 has been an excellent year for the association, one year ago there was not the expectation that the development would take place so fast, not that the development is finished. The work that has gone into providing such a fine changing room facility (for the cost) is one that Mark, Steve, Jayne and the team should feel proud of. The number of people and companies who have helped is just brilliant, it has been a real community action that has brought people together and of course allowed Bull and Dog FC to play their home games on the newly renamed Greatham Sports Ground. Ronnie Westmoreland has once again done a sterling job fundraising, and we are particularly grateful to the Foyle Foundation and Garfield Weston for their donations. However the key was the voluntary labour put in. It was particularly pleasing to see both how many people are interested in the football club and also how players have contributed to this project. To have the village team playing in the village is just great, it's ridiculous that it hasn't always been the case, but to be playing on such a superb pitch too. Other good news is our fine new noticeboard, new goalposts with nets, the entrance to the field is more secure and smarter, the tennis court has been well used and well maintained and the grass looks well, a good job been done by Buggy and also Steve Hadfield on the pitch.

The noticeboard and our Facebook page which now has over 180 followers has meant that we are able to get information out in regards to the field, and publicise our events such as the opening day match v Wolviston which was a great occasion and the Classic Car Show in September. We have had a large number of fundraisers this year, including band nights in the community centre, 3 turns in the Bull and Dog, a stall at the Christmas Market and the Feast as well as the summer draw which was outstanding. Our next plans are a repainting and maintenance of the tennis court, hopefully in the next month, further improvement of the changing facility and extension of the lease.

I am grateful for all of our committee, each do things to help the field, all are positive. I appreciate the support I get, as on occasions I have not been able to put in as much time as I like. I think we have a clear shared view of the field, we all feel that public access for sport and recreation is key, all wish to have the finance to further improve the fields changing facilities and also to have play or exercise equipment for young and old. Hopefully we will get there.

Seeing kids heading towards the field with a ball or tennis racket in hand and the response to the Bull and Dog FC is rewarding. I have just come in from the field with my son, the field looks great, our trees continue to grow, and we had a good night playing in the goals. What we provide for this village in my view is an asset. Finally I would like to thank Hart Biologicals and Greatham Parish Council for their continued support.

Unfortunately due to the works on the community centre we have had to postpone our fundraiser with the band De Silva it has been rescheduled for Sat March 5, details available on posters, or our facebook page or tel Kevin on 0779526162 or see Ronnie Westmoreland.

Kevin Cosgrave
Chair G.S.F.A.

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

In an emergency always ring 999. To contact your local police when it is not an emergency ring 101. An alternative is to ring the headquarters on 01642 326326. Our neighbourhood officer is P.C. Keith Robinson supported by P.C.S.O. Catherine Jones. Non urgent messages for your local officer can also be left via the Cleveland Police Force web site www.cleveland.police.uk using the 'my neighbourhood' tab and local concern form.

GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to Greatham Parish Council is Mr John Cunliffe of 15 Blackton Road, Elwick Rise, Hartlepool TS26 0QG, tel: (01429) 213022, e-mail: johnlesliecunliffe@hotmail.com. Correspondence for the Parish Council should be directed to the above address.

Greatham Parish Councillors are:-

Greatham Village Ward	Martin Lamb, 4A Woodbine Terrace, Greatham Margo Simmonds, 3A West Row, Greatham Brian Walker, 29 The Grove, Greatham (Chairman)
Greatham South Fens Ward	Christopher Dixon, 28 Wisbech Close, South Fens Irene Fraser, 29 Wisbech Close, South Fens Colin Richardson, 63 Mildenhall Close, South Fens (Vice Chairman) Michael Ward, 30 Wisbech Close, South Fens

The following maintenance list for Hartlepool Borough Council remains on the Parish Council minutes:-

- Ponding on corner at Egerton Terrace/Vicarage Row
- Potholes/poor road surface opposite Hope & Anchor
- Pavement surface in The Drive between Front Street and The Grove
- Pavement on road bridge over Greatham Beck
- Loose setts before entrance to Mellanby Lane
- Pavement on High Bank
- Faded and missing double yellow lines

Sadly, after a long period without damage, there has been some writing on the wall of the bus shelter. We would ask parents and others to always keep their eye out for graffiti to see if they recognise the names and if they can discourage this unfortunate activity. There are other more rewarding and positive ways to leave your mark which actually improve our surroundings for everyone – it would be wonderful if youngsters could be steered to them instead.

The Parish Council is looking at options to provide some way people can take the weight off their feet while waiting for a bus in the High Street. There is only room to do this in association with the bus shelter. Hopefully we will be able to come up with something but will need to co-ordinate with the Borough Council to do the installation.

The cul-de-sac sign at the entrance to West Row has been promised but is still being chased. Concerns about the safety of the junctions at both ends of Vicarage Row were also raised.

SOUTH WEST EXTENSION

Application approved. The development at Claxton only has outline permission while there is full permission to start building at the Brierton Lane end. Presumably we are unlikely to see much activity near Greatham until properties are built and sold off at Brierton Lane.

SUPER-FAST BROADBAND

The large green box which appeared on the green outside No10 Front Street is presumed to be a sign that this service is finally coming to Greatham. It is long awaited and will level the playing field as far as giving the village the same access to the internet, etc. as other communities. For this it is to be welcomed.

The siting and appearance of the new box in one of the most attractive locations in the conservation area is another matter. Sadly there was no consultation with the community regarding the arrival or location of this industrial piece of kit and BT are not required to do so. This sort of work was given permitted development rights by the government so BT does not need to seek permission. Some 52,000 of these boxes are popping up like a rash across the country – very practical but zero effort for beauty. Still this was the company that decided to dispose of the red phone boxes designed by architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral & Battersea Power Station) which were national icons in favour of the bland ‘international’ booths.

As with the replacement phone box they installed in Greatham, ignoring pleas to keep the old red box (after all it was in a conservation area), it will be down to the community to see if we can do anything to lessen the impact and disguise this new intruder. In Staindrop a similar box was plonked right in front of a lovely Victorian village hall the ladies from which were intent on knitting a cover! Perhaps we should stick to shrubs?

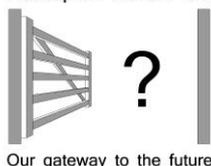
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Remember there will be no Brown Bin collections until the 1st March. The waste recycling centre in Burn Road will still be open to take garden waste during this period if you wish to take it there yourself. Recycling of real Christmas trees will occur throughout January, just leave the tree out with your green bin.

HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN

Hartlepool Rural Plan



Our gateway to the future

Work continues as volunteers give up their evenings to go through the responses to the consultation. Some still think the Neighbourhood Plan is being produced by the Borough Council. This is not the case it is being produced by the Parish Councils who operate in the rural area of Hartlepool. The Borough Council is providing some support to the Parish Councils and as they are the planning authority there is close contact with the planners in the Civic Centre. An independent planning consultant has also been engaged to ensure that the policies can legally stand up in the planning process. This cost has up to now been borne through grants for Neighbourhood Planning. As early as possible in the new year the updated policy document will be available hopefully providing a planning document that reflects the wishes of the rural community as much as it possibly can.

CHURCH NEWS

The Coffee Morning on the 25th November made over £500 for church funds with many thanks to all who helped and attended to make it such a success.

In 2016 the Church will launch a project to renew the electrics and lighting in the church to make it safe and welcoming for the future. Early in the New Year the ‘Illuminati’ appeal will be launched to get things underway.

SCHOOL NEWS

The School Autumn Fair raised an amazing £1,085. Thanks go to everyone who gave generously, helped at the fair and support the event.

Another successful event was the Macmillan Coffee Morning which raised a staggering £230. Thanks again to everyone who baked cakes, donated raffle prizes and attended.

CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Christmas Market has moved location from the village green to the Bull & Dog car park for 2015. We wish the new organisers every success keeping this event a lively part of the village calendar.

Congratulations to those responsible for the most impressive and lovely Christmas tree which graces the little green in Front Street. It is a wonderful seasonal symbol of how volunteers keep the community spirit alive in Greatham.

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

In 1949 Greatham hosted the Durham County Agricultural Show. There were all the usual attractions of an agricultural show including cattle, pigs, sheep, poultry, horses and ponies, fur and feather, rural crafts, flowers and vegetables, decorated cakes and a tent curiously named films. An extensive area was devoted to trade and industry stands. At the heart of the showground was a main ring and a smaller judging ring while to one side was another enclosure for dogs and a separate area for sheep dog trials. 22,000 people are said to have attended the 2 day event.

The location of the show was a corner of the Greatham Airport site, just west of the airport buildings on the area where the old steelwork offices now Cleveland Fire Brigade HQ is located to the boundary of Queens Meadow. This offered the added attraction of flights over the show. For just 5 shillings (25p) and 10 shillings (50p) North-East Flying Services owned by Frank Elliott would take you to new heights. They also offered, for just 5d per mile, an air taxi service to anywhere!

DIARY

Friday 11 th December 5pm-6pm	Open Door at the Community Centre to see the changes
Monday 14 th December 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre. Public welcome to attend
Sunday 20 th December 6.00pm	A service of nine lessons and carols in the Hospital of God Chapel
Thursday 24 th December 8.00pm	The Christmas Eucharist in Church
Thursday 25 th December 8.00am & 9.30am	Christmas Eucharists in Church
Saturday 26 th December Noon	Greatham Sword Dance & Mummers Play performed by the Redcar Sword Dancers opposite the Community Centre.
2016 6 th -9 th January	Greatham Village Players presents Puss in Boots nightly in the Community Centre. Tickets £4, concessions £3.
Monday 25 th January 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Public Welcome to attend
Saturday 5 th March	Sports Field Association band night fundraiser featuring De Silva
Monday 7 th March 6.30pm	Greatham Parish Council Meeting in the Community Centre Public Welcome to attend

**A Very Happy Christmas
&
Best Wishes for 2016
to all Our Readers**

POSITIVE THOUGHT

There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still

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