

Great Eccleston In Bloom 2025



Gt Eccleston's Unofficial
Shield of Arms



Volunteers featured on the
front cover of our local
Wyre community magazine
in May



We continue to work at the
residential bungalows



Advertising our new free seed and book swap.



Volunteer barrels

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Around the Square

Welcome from the Great Eccleston in Bloom (GEIB) Team and Great Eccleston Parish Council

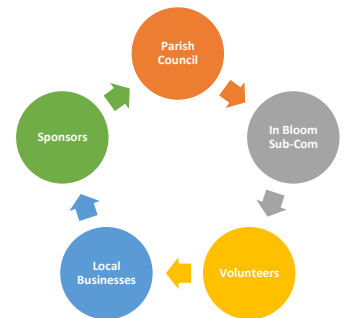
We would like to welcome the Judges to Great Eccleston, for 2025, we have strived to continue the work completed in 2024 and make further improvements. This year we have continued our engagement with the Community and tripled our fund raising for In Bloom! Our volunteers have continued to help us and have even grown in numbers (with a couple of partners joining in too!). Friendships have strengthened and we have all learned from our experiences over the past 3 years and from each other. Great Eccleston would not be "In Bloom" without their hard work, ideas and teamwork. A massive Thank You to them!

The GEIB Team is co-ordinated by the In Bloom Sub-Committee made up of two Parish Councillors Trevor Browning and Pam Taylor and the Clerk, Hugh Glover. The Sub-Committee generally meet monthly and on an ad hoc basis to oversee the work carried out and give monthly updates to the Parish Council.

Trevor and Pam are also part of the Volunteer Team who now meet weekly during Spring and Summer and fortnightly during the other seasons. This can turn out to be even more frequent in peak times to make sure everything looks great and up to date! Our WhatsApp Group is a success too, as the updates, help, advice, questions and arrangements made helps Pam keep the project plan updated and boosts moral and enthusiasm.

For 2025, we hope to build on the success of 2024, incorporating the Judges suggestions and trying to work differently in the dry climate we have experienced this year. Highlights are: -

- The Volunteers raised over £900 which has completely funded the annual planting in the Welcome Beds and all the planters they are responsible for, as well as supplementing the planting paid for by the Parish Council.
 - For example, the Memorial planters have benefited from adding succulents and gravel to aid water retention.
- One of the Volunteers has created pebble plant labels for the herb beds outside the Health Centre, along with the inspirational pebbles in the Pinfold Friendship Garden.
- Our Friendship Circle feature started last year is coming to fruition after the long process of obtaining a licence grant from Wyre to site it on Garstang Road.
- Our bus stop signage and history project is now well underway and will be completed in August.
- Our logo'd and hi viz volunteers can be seen about the Village on a regular basis, with lots of thanks from passing residents. We even made it onto the front cover of our local Wyre community magazine -inFocus!
- Village Centre Garden – top cleared patio is now being used for Yoga as well as inside the Centre. We have added planters around the patio and "Daisy" to encourage visitors. The compost heap is continuing to develop, and the water butts have been well used during a very dry May. There is an additional 750L water butt on order.
- Another more sustainable and recyclable planter has been added to the new bus stop outside the Pharmacy. Like our others, this has a water reservoir to aid watering and reduce water wastage.
- We have maintained our project plan and the Volunteers continued their responsibility for maintenance of all the barrels and planting of 7 of them.
- Embracing the RHS "Plants and People", promoting mental health, enhancing biodiversity and fostering community cohesion. The Pinfold and the Village Centre are our main community spaces with 2 grants applied for to make the Village Centre more accessible and provide better seating on Garstang Road to encourage people to walk and be able to rest. The telephone box is being converted to a free seed and book swap. We also had a community education event when the Volunteers pruned the fruit trees outside the Health Centre under the watchful eye of Karl Shorrocks from Willowbridge Plants.
- We continue to work at the Bungalows weeding and planting and there is another Christmas Craft Fair in November.
- We have worked hard to maintain sponsors and have been able to raise some additional sponsorship for watering.



- We have worked as a team of friends to keep Great Ecclestone Blooming!

As well as continuing with the barrel replacement, the Parish Council (PC) have bought new more efficient watering equipment and renewed the watering contract but due to restricted funding we are relying on sponsorship for the monthly watering. The PC are supporting the history and amenity panels in the bus stop, have supported seasonal planting in the Square along with additional Christmas Lighting in the lamp post beds and bus stop.

Having maintained our relationships with local businesses, we are pleased that they all continue to pay for amenity signs at the Village entrance/exit onto Garstang Road. The Dentist has continued its donation for their hay basket, the Health Centre for a new barrel outside the pharmacy, ES Williams and Moons have contributed an extra £300 each to cover 2 months watering.

The aim of the Village planting is to bring colour and interest in a more sustainable way, so as well as introducing the water reservoir planters, we continue to reuse perennials when experience dictates they would benefit elsewhere. For example, the Festuca planted in the Memorial Planters has been moved to open beds and the Lavatera which had more than outgrown its barrel has also been moved to an open bed.

Nathan Montgomery, a local gardener, has again carried out the planting in the tiered planters and lamp post beds as well as the hanging baskets and some of the barrels. The rest of the barrel planting and all the barrel maintenance has been carried out by the Volunteers alongside their work in the Village Centre Garden.

Planting is a year-round experience, and Autumn, Winter & Spring planting has been carried out with spring bulbs put in all the new barrels. Pictures below from Nov 2024 - Apr 2025



Additional Christmas Lighting has been purchased to enhance our December displays.

Although we have seen many houses built in recent years (with more to come) it is essential that we try to retain our history as an ancient rural village/community. We have reminders in the Pinfold and of course our new Friendship Circle using locally sourced vintage cartwheel rims on Garstang Road. The new notice boards in the bus stop will have details of the history of the Village and listed buildings.



Introduction to the Village

Great Eccleston is an ancient village, the earliest known information is 1066 when it was part of the Ancient Hundred of Amounderness (one of 6 historic subdivisions in the County) and was owned by Tostig Godwinson, the brother of King Harold II. However, this means that the village must have existed before this time. It was recorded in the Domesday Book as “Eglestun” (1068). It had various names but became known as Great Eccleston in 1296.

Today, the village has expanded from 708 properties to 853. The Village amenities and the surrounding countryside have attracted more families into the new developments on Copp Lane, West End and Hall Lane etc and currently over 2,300 Villagers are serviced by a large range of shops and amenities. The population is set to expand in the future when a further c518 houses and a Community Hub is completed in the future.

The Square has always been the hub of the village. In the 1600s this area, (which was far larger than it is now) was simply earth covered. Then later in its life it was cobbled and is now tarmacked.

It has always been a gathering place. It was once the site of the annual horse fairs, Gala Queen crowning, it has held Music Events like the Arts Festival, Fun Days, Christmas Markets and most recently the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The Village is still home to historic buildings some of which are listed.



Once nicknamed Little London due to the number of retail outlets in such a small area, today the Village is still thriving and contains numerous businesses.

We have a Health Centre & Dentist, Architect, Bakery, Barbers, Beauty, Builders, Butchers, Care Home, Convenience Store, Delicatessen, Dog Grooming, Estate Agent, Equestrian Supplies, Fitness including Pilates, Flooring Systems, Fruit & Veg, Funeral Directors, Hairdressers, Hardware & DIY, Ladies Fashion, Newsagent & Post Office & Specialist Outdoor Supplier. You can eat at the Village Centre, Café, Fish and Chip Shop, Pizza Restaurant and three Public Houses. A range of social groups exist including the Women’s Institute, Garden Club, Scout Group and three Places of Worship. The Village Centre is also a community hub for all the residents.

A market takes place every Wednesday with a Plant Stall, Greengrocer, Fish Monger, Household Supplies & Pet Supplies, Wooden items & sometimes there is even an Italian clothing stall!



The Village Centre and Rear Garden frequently holds special events as well as being a charity café open every weekday morning. Over the last 12 months there has been a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, Christmas Craft Fair raising funds for GEIB, our annual Christmas Dinner with entertainment, a Spring Craft Fair, Bingo, Raffles and our weekly Bric-a-Brac Stall. The garden there has been a major part of GEIB, and it has been great to see some of the Yoga classes using it.

Great Eccleston also has a long sporting tradition and can claim to have had a bowling green since the 18th century, the current Bowling Club celebrated their 100th Anniversary in 2023. There is a football pitch, a thriving Cricket Club and of course the Tractor Pull.

The Village has a long association with agriculture, so it is fitting that the major event in the village is the annual Agricultural Show. This year the show is 172 years old; it brings together locals and visitors to enjoy a range of activities from livestock exhibitions and equestrian events plus food and drink and crafts and horticulture. The show is well supported and attracts more than 40,000 visitors. The Great Eccleston Tractor Pulling Course is rated as one of the best in Europe. The Parish Council Award for Best Kept Garden is one of the many categories that can be entered.



Achievements for 2025

We wanted to maintain and improve our plans this year, building on the relationships and friendships started in 2023. The project plan has continued throughout the seasons along with regular volunteer get togethers not only to “garden” but to also share ideas and a coffee and a biscuit! We have continued to interact with the local community. As well as our review of the planted beds, our maintenance and usual planting, our main projects for 2025 included: -

1. Volunteers & Teamwork

We are very pleased to have maintained our Volunteer Group through 2024 and 2025 and have welcomed some new ones! Even some Partners have come to our aid! We use community connections, social media, the Village Centre and Great Eccleston & District Gardening Club but most of all friendships have been built up and the group has certainly rallied when calls for help have been made. Not only have the Volunteers contributed their time, but also ideas and plants from their own gardens. Volunteers have continued to design and plant existing planters, the Welcome Beds, Health Centre Beds and Shady Bed which have continued to flourish. Regular maintenance of all the barrels in the Village whether they have planted them or not is carried out. They continue to look after the Pinfold and four specialist Volunteer Barrels using a mix of perennials and a few annuals. All the benches were painted in 2024 with 2 painted purple last year but need their regular maintenance, the two benches outside the Deli and the one outside the White Bull have been renovated along with the Postman's In Memory bench outside the Chippy. The bench donated by Little Eccleston has now joined the “Purple Bench Gang”. In addition, Frank Croft has planted the small bed at the bottom of Raikes Road once again. In addition to gardening the Volunteers have got together at charity events this year, helping raise money for Macmillan, Cancer Research and Trinity Hospice.

The Volunteers held a Christmas Craft Fair at the Village Centre and raised £901 for In Bloom from renting out the tables, tombola, children's tombola and refreshment sales. It was so successful and well attended we have a waiting list of vendors to have tables at our November 2025 event.

Working with the Bungalows IYN, Volunteers have been weeding and planting and looking after 3 barrels, the rose bed which they planted in 2024 and the drawer feature under the trees. Volunteers have done regular litter picking and roadside weeding. We have also engaged with Wyre Council to co-ordinate the pruning and care of the two “Wyre Beds” and clear the paths around the Welcome Beds. Gareth and his team have done an amazing job this year!

A great team to bring Great Eccleston into Bloom!

2. The Friendship Circle

Inspired by the RHS Friendship Theme for 2024, the Volunteers purchased 4 vintage cartwheel rims for £60 which we thought could be interlocked to signify a friendship circle, and so, the idea of a large structure at the entrance to the Village on Garstang Road was born! However, it wasn't as easy as we thought, we needed permission from LCC and Wyre, needed to find a contractor, needed a design and some money! Permission was granted from Wyre after a prolonged period, we found and engaged a local landscaper who could build a base and weld the circles together, more than that he has kindly offered to invoice materials only, so labour is free of charge. The design has come from the Volunteers aided by the husband

of another (structural engineer). We agreed to use some of the donation from 2024 from Nisa to pay for it and a bench to sit on, the Parish Council will fund some of the cost and we have successfully applied for a grant from Lancashire Environmental Fund to cover any additional funds needed. The cartwheels have now been welded and the base will be constructed shortly. Completion is expected in August. We have also contacted Wyre and asked if the area around it could be left unmown (except for a path) and they have agreed if we arrange for an annual mowing. Our thoughts here are simply to leave it un-mowed



and see what happens, there are already wildflowers there and naturalised bulbs. We are also thinking about growing some wildflowers from seed to help it come along but we will wait and see at first.

3. Pinfold Friendship Garden



The Pinfold was renovated in 2023 to make it a useable space and upgraded again in 2024 when it was renamed it the Pinfold Friendship Garden. It remains a place to sit, think, escape and, the wildlife like it too! With the permission of the Owner, this space is entirely volunteer led and maintained, with items created by Volunteers or paid for with funds raised by them. Volunteers have created of our friendship figures, noughts & crosses table and the friendship pebbles for people to take away, and they do! The basket is regularly refilled. We also ask visitors to leave plain pebbles for painting, and they do!



This year we have added another insect house and water for the wildlife. The picture of the snail prompted an educational discussion of good and bad ones on our WhatsApp Group.



4. Telephone Box

The Telephone box is being repurposed from a floral display to a free garden book and seed swap. It has been cleaned by the Volunteers, drawers have been donated and a chalk board is due to be done to aid instructions/suggestions. It is soon to be populated with second hand garden books and donated seeds. For its launch there will be free plant pots and compost for planting to get this project started.



5. Watering

Watering is always a difficult issue but May 2025 was so dry we decided to postpone additional planting for a few weeks. Replacing all the old wooden barrels with new ones with water reservoirs has definitely helped but they do need filling up. The Volunteers stepped up and watered the existing planting using the containers In Bloom purchased last year and their own. When the tiered planters and lamp post beds were planted in a heat wave, a few days before official watering was due to start, the Volunteers stepped in again to help the new plants have a good start. In addition, we have businesses and residents continuing helping us water the planters in their immediate vicinity.

We use a local husband and wife team for watering - Green Machines Garden Services and we had given them our bowser but last year the pump and hosepipe made the whole thing very time consuming and therefore more expensive than needed. The Parish Council agreed to buy new equipment but due to budget restrictions this year, did not have other funds available for the weekly watering. Pam therefore contacted some of our regular contributors and secured 2.5 months of watering and is looking for new donations for the rest. The PC have just agreed to buy a new 750L water butt and watering cans for future use.

Section A Horticulture

The renovated tiered garden at the back of the Village Centre continues to be used by residents and visitors alike. The volunteers continue working throughout the seasons pruning and weeding to keep it looking good and the now cleared top tier, which is now used, with donated and volunteer made benches in place. There is little needed in additional planting but maintenance is key with each big pruning session a lesson for the volunteers on how it should be done by those more experienced.

Our new beds for 2024, the Shady Bed and Health Centre Herb Bed have gone from strength to strength and continue to mature with planting that reflects their location. There has been a top up of appropriate plants where needed (relocated or from volunteer gardens). The Health Centre beds have been well maintained and had an addition of more gravel and some chives to replace the annual basil.

The Memorial Planters are a focal point in front of the Village Centre and War Memorial. The PC decided to keep them mostly red in colour and last year they were planted with red geraniums surrounding the Festuca Grass (previously planted in 2023) as the geraniums faded along with the summer, they were replaced by red cyclamen for the Memorial Services. Coming into Spring, the grasses needed thinning, but we decided to move them into some of the open beds where we think they will flourish. We believe alpine and succulent plants would be more appropriate staple in these dry planters. Geraniums and Salvia annuals have been added to give some instant impact as both are drought tolerant and the volunteers have added gravel to help water retention.



We have a policy to reuse shrubs and perennials wherever we can, the Welcome Beds are a prime example and contain shrubs rescued from the old beds, the memorial planters and those unwanted by volunteers. Even those not needed by In Bloom have been relocated to a new bed alongside St Mary's School now looked after by the School Children. The Welcome Beds have a backbone of shrubs and perennials but were planted with begonias for summer impact with pansies for the winter and spring bulbs. begonias were added in June and have since been topped up with Cosmos. Some of last year's begonias were overwintered by the volunteers and been replanted for another year!

The Volunteer barrels have been replanted transferring some of the perennials from last year and adding new (grown from seed and bought). An example of one of their planting plans is provided here.



Barrels in the Square outside the Dentist -- Corinne & Jackie			
Trees	Inherited long-term residents		
Blue Salvia	Last year's plants	Perennial	
Blue Veronica (Speedwell)	To replace a lost salvia	Perennial	
Scabiosa Ritz Blue	New	Perennial	
White Papaver Alpinum	New	Annual - will collect seeds for next year	
Nasturtium Tropaeolum majus	New	Half-hardy annual - will collect seeds for next year	Edible
Antirrhinum white	New	Half-hardy annual - will collect seeds for next year	
Dwarf cornflower	Grown by us from seed	Native hardy annual	Edible flowers
Corn Camomile	Grown by us from seed	Native hardy annual	
Wild strawberries - Fragaria Vesca	Grown by us from seed	Native Hardy perennial	Edible fruit
Black grass Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'	Last year's plants - originally from our own garden	Perennial	
Lysimachia nummularia	Last year's plants - originally from Sharon's own garden	Native perennial	
Spring bulbs: Muscar	New	Perennial	For early spring colour
And Tete-a-Tete			
Winter flowering pansies - Viola Wittrockiana	Planted new in Autumn 2023. To be lifted and cared for at home Summer 2024 - pruning and raising of seeds taking place	Short-lived perennials	Autumn to early spring colour

The new Volunteer barrel near the Health Centre has a colourful and perennial theme this year with plants which will be happy in their sunny position. The Hydrangeas continue to be happy on the shady side of the street but we needed to replace the grasses in the cottage barrels. Two had striking Agapanthus in them last year and the lavatera in the third one has been replanted in an open bed near the Caravan Park and it has been replaced with a matching agapanthus. All barrels are now underplanted with spring bulbs.

Maintenance

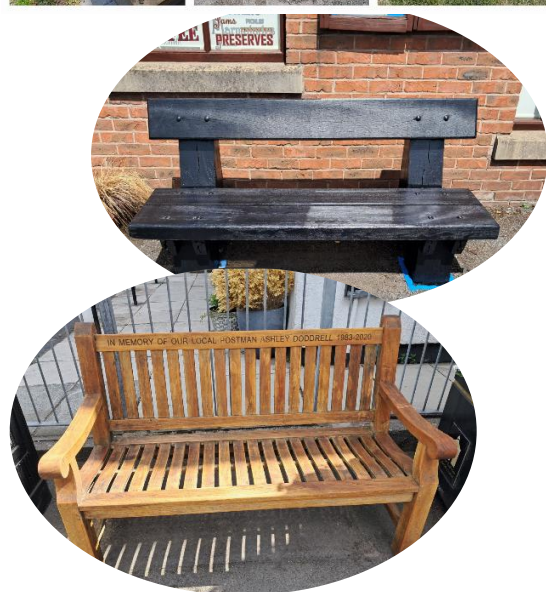
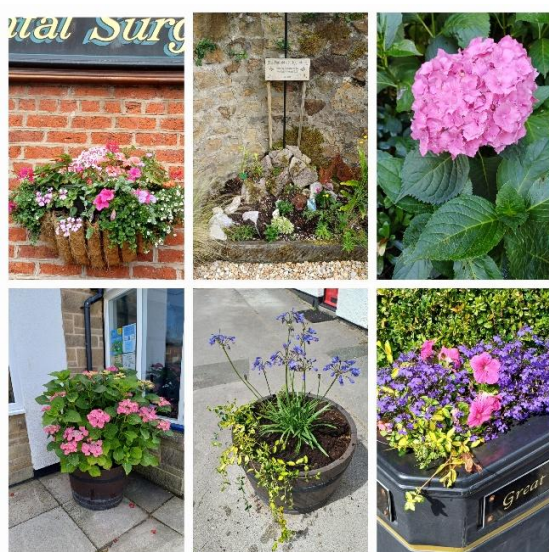
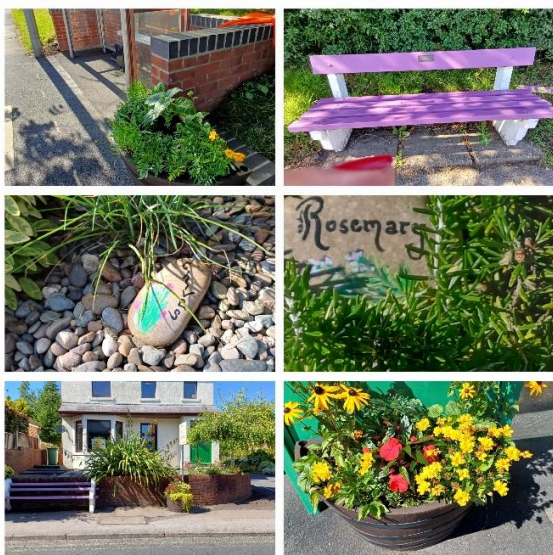
In addition to the Health Centre, their own planted barrels and now the Welcome Beds, the Volunteers have been responsible for the maintenance of most areas throughout the Village. You can often see a Volunteer with bag and snips in hand checking the planters as they walk through the Village to one of the businesses!

Nathan Montgomery maintains the St Mary's bed, lamp post beds and tiered planters between 1 June to 30 September as part of his contract.

The Queen Elizabeth Roses in the Celebration Bed continue to flourish but were not planted deeply enough. Unable to get them down deeper, once again we have added organic matter and compost to raise the level of the bed holding it in place with a ring of cobbles donated by a volunteer.

Some of the failing Lithodora has sprung back into life but we have mixed in some lobelia, petunias and geraniums to give some additional colour.

Some of our 2025 work



Section B Environment

Local Identity and Pride of Place

As mentioned in the introduction we take great pride in Great Eccleston and its rural heritage: The Pinfold was added to our planting schedule in 2023 with kind permission of the owner. The Pinfold is grade II listed and we believe the current version dates from the 19th century. It was used to house stray animals until the farmer collected them, now renamed the Pinfold Friendship Garden and featuring Friends and noughts & crosses table made by one of our Volunteers. Planting is fairly natural and we even leave some of the weeds. There is an upturned “milk” churn and a water trough and bird feeder.

To retain the history in recent memory, an online historical guide has been created and is continually reviewed but you can see the latest example by using the QR code on the right. This will be used on the new spines being artworked for the bus stop. This will become an information post with 6 spines –Village history highlights, including:-



- Walks
- Historical buildings
- Information on current shops and services

Our benches are in frequent use whether recycled plastic or wood. The wooden ones outside the Deli and in the Square have been properly refurbished this year by Volunteers. We have two sustainable benches, one outside the Village Centre and one in front of the bus stop giving both a sun and shade option while waiting for a bus. The other wooden benches are looked at on a rolling basis, with 4 being refurbished this year by volunteers.

We hope to receive Grant Funding from LEC in August to buy 5 more sustainable benches to be put down Garstang Road, this will enable residents and visitors to walk the circular route around the Village whilst having places to stop if they need to.

The PC contacted LCC and finally got them to refurbish the lamp post in the Celebration Bed.

Litter bins are placed throughout the Village and kept clean with an additional large bin outside the Chip Shop. We also have residents and volunteers who regularly litter pick.

The increased awareness of In Bloom has also impacted the businesses in the Village, the White and Black Bulls have particularly noticeable displays this year with some stunning displays by residents.



Natural Environment

We have increased the diversity of the plants, using perennials and pollinators including plants like Forget-me-nots, Buddleia, Aster, Scabious. Bird boxes and natural areas to encourage wildlife have increased.

The Pinfold Friendship Garden – water, bird feeder, bug house & twig pile

Shady Bed – Stumpery & wood pile

Village Centre –Bird Boxes, bug house and natural area

Bungalows – Tree bark incorporated into the Drawer feature and the Residents also have bird feeders

The large trees at either end of the Village in the “Wyre Beds” - Bird boxes reinstated

We are always on the lookout to create another pile of logs and although we are conscious that we don't have an expanse of water in the Village Centre, the pond renovated by residents of Thorne Meadows Development attracts a range of wildlife and featured in their 2023 IYN submission.

The investment in “self-watering” barrels, some of which are made from recycled material help us reduce waste and water volume.

Environmental Management

- The Willows replaced on the green area at Lancaster Avenue a few years ago seem to be doing an effective job of drying out the area.
- We now have a connected water butt in the Village Centre Garden, along with a water bin with a new water butt to come.
- Peat Free compost has been used where possible for new barrels and topping up the old planters, old compost has been re-fed and recycled to open beds.
- Hedge bark has been used as a mulch.
- Chives donated by a resident have been used as companion plants for the roses.
- All the plants being moved have been looked after by a Volunteer before recycling them to their new more suitable homes.
- Wyre have used any large pruning as mulch on the beds they have tended.
- Compost bins have been moved to enable use at both ends of the Village and the new compost area is being used regularly in the Village Centre Garden which also houses a willow fedge.
- In Autumn the leaves from the grand oak tree were collected to make leaf mould.
- All the plants in the Shady Bed have come from the Volunteers own gardens, as have some of the barrel planters or been grown from seed.
- The signs were renovated rather than replaced and our wooden features are re-using wood that would otherwise have been discarded.



Section C Community:

Year-round activity and forward planning

We created an In Bloom work schedule in late 2022 and this continues to be updated and used, attached as appendix b. It has evolved and been added to during the years to cover items as they came up but has been a great tool to ensure we stay on track. We also have a Volunteer WhatsApp Group also used to collect photos and answering advice questions re plants as well as organising our Monday volunteer meetings.

Looking forward from now right through into 2026 our main tasks are: -

- Continuing all our maintenance
- Finishing off the Friendship Circle and Bus Stop Information Boards
- Finalising donation signs and attaching
- Helping with the Macmillan Coffee Afternoon organised by the Great Ecclestone & District Garden Club
- Planning the November Craft Fair
- Taking part in the August Scarecrow Competition and planting gold pebbles, some with prizes for the children to find along the route
- Continuing to work with Wyre Council to ensure areas are kept in good condition
- Ordering and installing 6 new benches for Garstang Road (LEF Grant)
- Planting bulbs in our last new planter
- Autumn and Winter planting
- Summer 2026 planting and designing
- Learning from our experience and looking for improvements for 2026

Community Involvement

Village Centre Garden

We started a 2 year project to renovate the overgrown and unused tiered garden at the back of the Village Centre. Since November 2022 volunteers have met on a regular basis to clear, prune, weed, paint, to make the patio area a lovely, calming place to sit. The Garden will continue to be a volunteer focused space with year-round work going on, the compost area and water butts have continued to be great additions to the space.

The Village Centre is a charitable organisation and its garden is an important part of In Bloom. The garden is open to everyone and with the Village Centre serving refreshments every weekday morning, it has become a great space to meet. The Centre's advertising posters/leaflets and Facebook page publicise In Bloom on a regular basis.



We do need to attract more visitors so, as well as the Craft Fair, we have this year entered a second scarecrow in the rear garden, we hope as part of the trail to introduce new people to the VC. The Volunteers have also planted up the patio and plans are in place to renovate some of the furniture.



Other Community Areas

- The Northlands Care Home pebbles still adorn the Square where new gravel has been added to show them off. Plant pot painting is planned for the autumn.
- As previously mentioned, the 2024 Christmas Craft Fair raised important funds for In Bloom as well as bringing the wider community into the Village.
- The Volunteer Group have also supported other Community Events with time and donations raising funds for Macmillan, Cancer Research and Trinity Hospice with some plants from charity stalls.

- Some of the Volunteers have also helped with tree planting at Copp and in a large private garden where we were able to use some of the plants in the Welcome Beds.
- The Volunteers have continued to help at the Bungalows IYN, planting and maintaining the rose bed and the drawers, maintenance of 3 barrels and lots and lots of weeding!

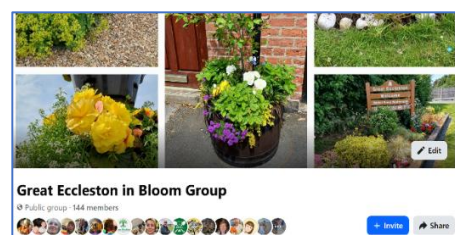


Communication, Education and Awareness

We have continued our Great Eccleston in Bloom Facebook to tell people what is going on, they can also comment and add ideas. We also use the Village Centre Facebook page which has over 1000 members to publicise GEIB too.



To cover all bases, articles have appeared in inFocus telling the wider Community about GEIB, we have also advertised events and appealed for help and volunteers. We have liaised with Great Eccleston Show to promote the Annual Best Kept Garden competition sponsored by the Parish Council.



Pebbles with herb names are now in the Health Centre Beds and Pam Taylor carried on teaching at the St Mary's After School Gardening Club through Autumn 2024 but sadly has been unable to continue this year, she is keeping an eye on the new bed the Children helped plant so will be organising a major clear up of the bed shortly along with some one off events in 2026. There has been a donation of seeds, books and gardening gloves given to the School.

We have liaised with Wyre Council to get the Wyre Beds those beds hard pruned and edged earlier in the year along with moss clearing on the paths around the West End Welcome Bed.

The Volunteers were all involved in pruning the suckers from the apple trees outside the Health Centre under the watchful eye of Karl from Willowbridge Plants. Lessons on what, how and why were gratefully received by the Volunteers who even drafted in some partners to help and then took away all the cuttings. Result healthier trees!



Support and funding

By engaging with the community on a face to face basis we have secured over £3,250 in sponsorship plus £901 profit from the Craft Fair. We still have the £1000 donation from Nisa 2024 but it is being spent on a bench and Friendship Circle. The profit from the Christmas Craft Fair has enabled us to buy plants and features for the Village and make a difference without adding an additional burden on the Parish Council budget We are grateful to all our sponsors; they have been very supportive.

Sponsors

Sponsorship Received From

A & D Parkinson + signs
Andy Crook & Harry Martin
Bellamy's Fish Bar
The Barber Shop
Deep Beauty Spa
Farmers Arms
E.S. Williams
Great Ecclestone Dental Practice
Jaycee Newsagent & Post Office
John Rowe Architect
Jos Jeffries Landscaping
MMJs Ladies Fashion
Moons Funeral Directors
Northlands Care Home
Pebby's Bakery
Supplement Solutions Equine Supplies
The Veg Garden
The White Bull
Wyre Council

Donated Items

Compost
Plants
Paint
Pebbles/Cobbles
Plants for some beds & barrels
Pinfold friends
Signage
Telephone Box drawers
Telephone Box Books & Seeds
Tools, brushes & equipment
Labour for Friendship Circle

Volunteer Groups/Businesses

Bowling Club Members
Great Ecclestone & District Garden Club
Great Ecclestone Health Centre
Village Centre Volunteers
Residents of the Bungalows

Businesses Used

Green Machines -Watering
Lengthsman –Litter & Cleaning
Nathan Montgomery - Planting
Cleveleys Landscapes – Friendship Circle

Volunteers Gardening & Watering

Amanda Ackroyd
Pat Broadley
Trevor Browning
Carol Clower
Frank Croft
Jackie Hudson
Tim Hudson
Tracey Jones
Sandra Marsh
Sharon Martin
Cath McComish
Caroline Morley
Amanda Morrison
Brenda Nuttall
Debbie Painter
Tamara Priestman
John Schofield
Joan Schofield
Kevin Smith
Eddie Stevens
Pam Taylor
Helen Thompson
Sharon Thompson
Debby Williams
Corinne Yates
Alan Yates

Special thanks to the Wyre Landscaping Team who have done an amazing job this year.

It's Your Neighbourhood

This year we are pleased to have 2 IYN's within Great Eccleston, that is less than last year as due to other commitments Copp are having a "gap year" from entering Work is still continuing there and some of the GEIB Volunteers have been helping to plant trees in a newly acquired field by Sharon Martin and provided the manure to help her new compost area. In addition, Copp are continuing to maintain the Church grounds and planting seeds and a new hügelkultur is in the making!

The Bungalows at Raikes Road

The planting at the Bungalows is administered as usual by John Schofield aided by the residents. As always, they are again keen to make an impression for each other and other residents of the Village. They work as a team to plant the gardens with spectacular results at the rear and front and would like to give special thanks to some new "younger" residents Derek, Brian, Jim and Barbara for all their work and taking over some of John's responsibilities. Photographs don't do this area justice, and we look forward to the Judges visit.

This year the Parish Council has paid for edging plants for the 3 barrels they replaced in 2023. The rose bed created by the GEIB Team in 2024 continues to be planted and maintained by the Volunteers using their own funds and plants. This bed was planted last year and has flourished.



However, the stars of this area are the Residents and their planters!



Great Eccleston Bowling Club

This year there are more volunteers, more barrels and more community engagement. They have also made a big impact on sustainability by creating a water capture system from the gutters to water the plants.

They look forward to welcoming the In Bloom judges this year.



The view from the entrance and the Scarecrow Festival Entry



Generating revenue from advertising



Around the Green – great for spectators & bowlers!

