Great Eccleston In Bloom
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Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to Great Eccleston.

We enter the North West in Bloom competition annually and we were extremely pleased that last year the Village obtained a Silver Gilt in the Large Village category.

This year the National and Regional Campaign will be called ‘Greening Grey Britain’ and the aim of the RHS will be to support groups transforming unloved spaces into great green spaces for people and wildlife.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who help to maintain the flower beds and we welcome any volunteers who may wish to join in the future. Over the year we have involved, volunteers, businesses’, community organisations, the two primary schools and playgroup.

Thanks must also go to businesses who sponsored and donated to the scheme without which we would not have the displays we have now, the list is below:

The Great Eccleston Fish Bar
Temple Beauty Clinic
Northlands Rest Home
The Farmers Arms
A.D Parkinson Butchers
Great Eccleston Health Centre
Jay-Cee’s Newsagents, Wine & Post Office
Courtyard Cafe
Great Eccleston Dentists
E.S. Williams

Floor Plan
MMJ’S Ladies Wear
Moons Funeral Service
Northlands Rest Home
The Old Post Office Gift Shop
Supplementary Solutions
Susan Catterall Hairdressers
The Veg Shop
White Bull
John Rowe Architect

Cllr Jackie Garth Chairman of the Great Eccleston Parish Council
The Village Square
In keeping with this year’s theme we have decided to brighten up the square and make it more attractive.

St Mary’s Queen’s 90th birthday
During the year we have created a new bed on St Mary’s Road to celebrate HM Queen’s 90th Birthday. This was implemented by the Parish council with help from St Mary’s children. The new area also has an Oak block donated to the village by Denis Rowlanson Tree Surgeon.
Three Tiered Planters

Two can be seen on the north side of the square outside the Dentists and Temple Beauty.

There is also a three-tiered planter to the south side outside Great Eccleston Fish Bar.

Bus Shelter

We have also added two new planters outside the bus shelter for aesthetic and safety reasons.

Memorial Stone

The new memorial stone on the Square was dedicated on Monday 4th August 2014 by the Bishop of Lancaster, the Rt Reverend Geoff Pearson, and representatives from all the local churches. Margaret Fowler of St Annes Copp Church led the service and was involved in the Memorial's instigation along with the Parish Council. The service was very well attended with over 100 people on the Square. There were representatives from The Lancashire Fusiliers, The Royal British Legion, Help for Heroes, the local MPs. County, Borough and Parish Councillors, and many villagers who no longer live in the village.

The Parish Council would like to thank Wyre Memorials and Moon’s Funeral Services on the Village’s behalf for generously donating the memorial stone. The PC wanted to
remember the centenary of the start of the First World War and the stone was dedicated on the exact centenary date. The wording is to remember those who served their Country in all conflicts past and present.

The stone planters complete with floral displays have helped make this an attractive area for people to stop and sit. To mark the Centenary the planters were planted with red Poppies in remembrance. This year we have now planted them with a variety of bedding plants but with red Poppies still prevalent.

**Hanging Baskets**

Various hanging baskets can be seen outside the shops in Great Eccleston and these together with the Parish Council hanging baskets provide a lovely display. These have been planted with Petunia, Ivy Leaf Geranium and Verbena all in pink and blue and white.

We have also added new hanging baskets towards the East of the Village.

**West End Flower Beds**

We have arranged for the West End Village Flower Bed to be replaced with more sustainable planting.

This bed was quite hard to manage due to tree roots in the bed and being in the tree shade. Therefore the mix of shrubs and perennials should suit this area far better.

**Wildlife Area and Substation**

The substation at the West End has also been planted with natural species of Hawthorn, Holly and Blackthorn to create a better wildlife habitat in order to screen and improve this area.
Great Eccleston Health Centre

We have added two new enlarged beds this year either side of the Health Centre steps. We hope this will have a beneficial effect on visitors to the Health Centre.

Great Eccleston Cricket Club

The Cricket Club was formed during the last century and now enjoys enhanced facilities. Over the winter of 2011/12 they completed a £115,000 redevelopment of the Clubhouse, opened by Jimmy Armfield. Over the winter of 2014/15 extensions and a redevelopment of the changing rooms building costing £35,000 took place. Members have been extremely grateful to receive grant funding for just under half of these costs from, amongst others, Sport England, The Harris Charity, Collinson plc, the Harold Bridges Trust and Barclays Bank. They have, however, worked very hard over many years at fundraising to fully pay the remainder of the developments and remain debt free. They now possess one of the best facilities in the league and are very happy to call it home.

The Club is run entirely by volunteers and has gone from strength to strength. The team plays in the Moore & Smalley Palace Shield. Four teams play Saturday League Cricket, There is a Sunday League Team as well as Junior Teams with ages ranging from under tens to under fifteens.

Our junior section is flourishing, with over 100 children now being put through their paces on a Friday evening and five age-groups playing competitive league fixtures. We now run four senior Saturday sides and another on a Sunday. The social side of the Club would also take a great deal of beating, with regular functions being well attended.

The club retains its own special identity and character and remains committed to its community and a league it has been a part of for over 100 years.
The cricket ground is maintained by the volunteers. In 2012 the Cricket Club won the Best Cricket Club in the North West.

Great Eccleston Bowling Club

The official opening was recorded in the Preston Guardian on May 3rd 1924, together with pictures. The first president was R Anforth and currently is W Griffiths.

Planting on Copp Lane

In conjunction with the Duke of Edinburgh Award the barrels on the pavement across from Copp School have been planted up by Sam Garth as part of his tasks.
Great Eccleston Playgroup

Their mission is to provide high quality care and education for children below statutory school age. The children in our care are encouraged to be inquisitive, independent, happy, confident and caring.

When they opened in 2012 they planted a herb garden, a sensory garden and spring bulbs. Each year they grow something from seed for the children to care for and take home.

This year for Wyre in Bloom they planted potatoes, broccoli and nasturtiums. These are perfect for children to grow as they grow so easily and rapidly. They have also purchased vegetable seedlings and are teaching the children about the cycle, so will let some go to seed and then plant them next year. All the children love to dig, water and then taste what they grow. They collect leaves and flowers to make funny gardens and patterns using natural objects, shells, cones and stones.
St Mary’s RC primary School

The students at St Mary’s help at the residential bungalows and also with the planting of the new bed at Marys Rd.

Great Eccleston Show The Parish Council Trophy for Best Kept Garden

The Great Eccleston Show is being held this year the weekend before In Bloom judging. There is a competition for best-kept garden run by Great Eccleston Show with the trophy being donated by the Parish Council. We have some lovely gardens in the village and this trophy recognises all the hard work of the entrants.

The Residential Bungalows Raikes Road

These are situated in Raikes Road. The landscaping of a large flowerbed and the paths were completed in July 2012. Residents are again this year keen to make an impression for the residents of the village and the judges with the addition of wall baskets on every bungalow.
They have all worked as a team and further additions have been made to the rectangular bed with sandstone boulders. Eight additional rose beds around the landscaped areas were also created. Planting at the gardens to the rear of the Bungalows have been transformed.

St Mary’s Pupils helped to plant the flowerbeds and shrubs at the Residential Bungalows over two afternoons. The school were keen to get involved in this project and thought the planting events were a good chance for the children to get to know the residents.

The Village Centre
The Village Centre is self funding and is run by a part time Manager and volunteers. The Centre and the dress shop stand on the site of a village shop, which was flanked by a smaller adjoining building to the right (when seen from the front) and part of the living quarters to the left. The building served as a shop from before 1886 and was run by James Cragg. In 1926 the shopkeepers rented the lower left-hand room to the District Bank from Garstang. In 1967 it was sold to the Bank and rebuilt in its present form, subsequently becoming the National Westminster. It closed in 1996, much to the dismay of the village inhabitants. It passed to Mr and Mrs Coop who let it to the village worthies. The Centre was opened in 2000 by HRH Princess Royal.
Great Eccleston In Bloom 2016

History of Great Eccleston

Great Eccleston is of great historic significance. It appeared in the Domesday Book as “Eglestun”, and at the time was larger than the surrounding villages, with it being referred to in the eighteenth century as “Little London”. Eglestun” means “Church settlement” however there is no record of a Saxon Church.

Nowadays, with the agricultural changes and the development of communication the village has turned it into a commuter haven.

The population has soared from 600 to over 1,700 inhabitants (Office or National Statistics, 2011 census).

The Village is thriving and there are numerous businesses within the Village. There is The Village Centre, Health Centre, Dentist, Supermarket, Butcher, Post Office, Cafe and Tea Room, Estate Agent, Fish and Chip Shop and Restaurant, Italian Restaurant, Architects Office, Fruit and Vegetable shop, and three Public Houses, Bakers, three Hairdressers, Newsagents and an Off Licence. Ladies Dress Shop and Gents Outfitters, Gents Barbers and DIY Shop. There is also the Women’s Institute and three Places of Worship.

Great Eccleston also has a long sporting tradition and can claim to have had a bowling green since the 18th century. We have recently received a grant from Wyre Council who have upgraded the children’s play area on the playing field.

The Village has a long association with agriculture and it is fitting that the major event in the village is the annual Agricultural Show. In recent years the show has been well supported and attracts in excess of 40,000 visitors. The Great Eccleston Tractor Pulling Course, is rated as one of the best in Europe. This was the venue for last year’s European Championships.

The Square has always been the hub of the village, being a convenient gathering place. It was once the site of annual horse fairs and the pre-1914 Club Day gathered here. Until 1939, it also accommodated the fair each September at the time of the Agricultural Show. The weekly market takes place every Wednesday. We have an Annual Fun Day in August every year, this is organised by the Businesses with the help of the public. Although the Square is now macadamised, it was once cobbled.