

# Great Eccleston In Bloom 2017



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## Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to Great Ecclestone.

We enter the North West in Bloom competition annually and last year we were extremely pleased that the Village obtained a number of different awards. The Cricket Club and Bowling Green gained the Thriving award, the Residential bungalows gained a Silver Gilt and the village, as a whole, gained a Silver Gilt in the Large Village class.

We take a pride in the village community and over the years have enhanced or greenery in a number of ways. We are encouraging the local community to become involved in a number of different ways to try and enhance the rural side of the village. We have recently seeded the pinfold in the west end of the village with native wild flowers to encourage their growth in the local community.

The village is enhanced with planted barrels, flower beds, hanging baskets and natural areas. We have recently added new flower beds, planted by the local Scout group, to the grassed area by the Health Centre and planted the areas beneath the village road signs. The flower bed at the top of St Mary's Road includes a memorial stone for the Queen's 90th birthday. In an attempt to encourage more birds in the area the local Scouts have positioned six new bird boxes in the wild area by the west end of the village.

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 Scouts, 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 Ecclestone Fish Bar

Temple Beauty Clinic

Northlands Rest Home

The Farmers Arms

A.D Parkinson Butchers

Great Ecclestone Health Centre

Jay-Cee's Newsagents, Wine

& Post Office

Courtyard Cafe

Floor Plan

MMJS Ladies Wear

Moons Funeral Service

Northlands Rest Home

The Old Post Office Gift Shop

Supplementary Solutions

Susan Catterall Hairdressers

The Veg Shop

John Rowe Architect

**Cllr David Astall, Chairman, Great Ecclestone 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 Queens 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.



## 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 Ecclestone Fish Bar Bus Shelter

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



## Memorial Stone



Additional 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 plants still prevalent.

## Hanging Baskets

Various hanging baskets can be seen outside the shops in Great Ecclestone and these together with the Parish Council hanging baskets provide a lovely display.

## 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.



## New Entrance signs and Amenities sign

New entrance signs at both ends of the village and ordered the sign for amenities in the village.



## 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 Ecclestone 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 Ecclestone 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 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. 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 building served as a shop from before 1886. 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. The Centre was opened in 2000 by HRH Princess Royal.



## A Brief History of Great Ecclestone

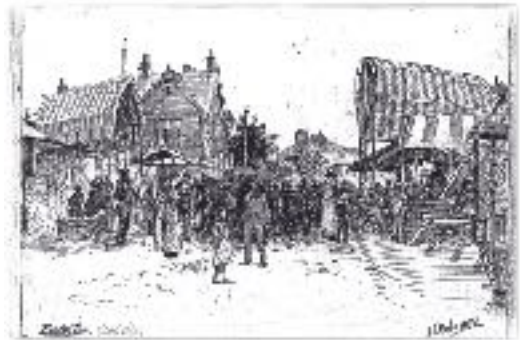


Great Ecclestone is of great historic significance. It appeared in the Domesday Book as “Eglestun”, and at the time was larger than the surrounding villages, with it being referred to in the eighteenth century as “Little London”. Eglestun” means “Church settlement” however there is no record of a Saxon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

