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Welcome & Introduction

Great Eccleston is a rural village set in the countryside therefore we as a community believe that we must maintain the beauty of the village and its area. Over the past few years we have increased the number of planted areas in the village to give it more colour as well as improve the general appearance of Great Eccleston. Last year we once again entered the North West in Bloom competition and were extremely pleased that the village was awarded a Silver Gilt in the Large Village class.

Our main aim is to involve the village community in the planting and improvement of their village, by allowing them to plant sections of the village and improve where they live. This has been very successful outside the old people’s bungalow’s in Raikes road and the east entrance to the village. We are hoping in the future to extend this community partnership.

Last year we planted a number of golden willow trees to the green area in Lancaster Avenue. These give colour to the green as well as helping the environment as they sit on the flood plain. The area has been affected by water logging over much of the year so it was hoped that the planting of the water loving willows would help dry the area out.

This year we have continued with the plantings of recent years but also increased the number of beds that we have planted. We have recently added new beds to each end of the village surrounding the ‘Welcome to Great Eccleston’ sign as well as a new bed in the eastern entrance to village; planted out and administered by a local resident. It is hoped next year to add another bed at the eastern end of the village when the unsightly grit bin is re-positioned, this will enhance the entrance to the village by giving colour.

The village has several planted barrels, flower beds, hanging baskets and areas left as natural planting. In addition to the planting of flowers and shrubs in the area we have also hung several bird boxes to attract birds.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who help to maintain the flower beds and we welcome any other people 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 the 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:

Cllr David Astall, Chairman,
Great Eccleston Parish Council

The Great Eccleston Fish Bar
Temple Beauty Clinic
Northlands Rest Home
The Farmers Arms
AD Parkinson Butchers
Great Eccleston Health Centre
Jay-Cee’s Newsagents, Wine
& Post Office
Courtyard Cafe
JLC Groundworks
Great Eccleston Dentists

Floor Plan
MMJ’S Ladies Wear
Moons Funeral Service
Northlands Rest Home
Supplementary Solutions
Susan Catterall Hairdressers
The Veg Shop
John Rowe Architect
E.S. Williams
The Village Square

In keeping with this year’s theme of Red, White and Blue we the have decided to brighten up the square and make it more attractive.

St Mary’s Bed, The Queen’s 90th birthday

The new bed on St Mary’s Road to celebrate HM Queen’s 90th Birthday is now maturing. 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 Eccleston 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 Eccleston 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.

Entrance signs and Amenities sign

The entrance signs at both ends of the village are being Oiled by the Scouts as part of their badge.

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 now enjoys enhanced facilities. 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 cricket ground is maintained by the volunteers.

**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.

**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. 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 St 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 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.