

Great Eccleston In Bloom 2019



Welcome & Introduction

We would like to offer a warm welcome to this year's North West In Bloom judges from all the volunteers within Great Ecclestone In Bloom.

Last year we were extremely pleased to win our first Gold Medal in The Large Village Category since Great Ecclestone Parish Council undertook the task of organising our Wyre In Bloom entry.

We could not have achieved this without our dedicated team of volunteers and community involvement. We would especially like to thank John Schofield who co-ordinates the entry for The Bungalows Residents Group. It is thanks to John and his teams hard work and dedication that they were again awarded outstanding in the It's Your Neighbourhood awards. John also works closely with St Marys School and the pupils enjoyed learning about plants and meeting the residents. The Cricket Ground and Bowling Green were awarded an advancing award and we would like to thank all the volunteers and members for all their hard work throughout the year.

We also have close links with Great Ecclestone Scouts and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Thompson, Scout Leader and all his Scouts for their community engagement. The Scouts have been involved in various projects throughout the years from making bird boxes which we have hung in trees at the West End of The Village, to planting flower beds at The Health Centre and undertaking a litter pick in the village.

At the eastern entrance of the village we have a new bed that has been planted by a local resident and we would like to thank Frank Croft who has undertaken this task.

Great Ecclestone is a rural village and we have used various planting techniques to enhance the natural beauty of the village. Over the years we have increased the number of planted beds within the village and included sustainable planting. Within the village centre itself we now have a large number of planters and hanging baskets with bedding plants in to make the village a more colourful and vibrant place for residents and visitors to enjoy.

In addition this year we have facilitated the introduction of a new planted bed at the West End of the village by local residents. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the volunteers who help plant and maintain flower beds, and keep the village looking tidy throughout the year. We warmly welcome any new volunteers who may wish to join in the future.

We have a number of schemes throughout the village for businesses to sponsor our In Bloom Efforts and thanks go to the the businesses listed overleaf for their donations and sponsorship. These help to ensure the sustainability of Great Ecclestone In Bloom and without this we would not have the displays we have today.

Cllr Jackie Garth, Chairman Great Ecclestone Parish Council

A massive thank you to the Businesses, Volunteers and Litter pickers for supporting Great Ecclestone in Bloom.

Businesses

Northlands Rest Home
The Great Ecclestone Fish Bar
The Farmers Arms
Susan Catterall Hairdressers
A.D Parkinson Butchers
John Rowe Architect
The Veg Shop
E.S. Williams
The Electric Bed Company
Floor Plan
MMJ'S Ladies Wear
Moons Funeral Service
Supplementary Solutions
Great Ecclestone Dentists
JLC Groundworks
JayCees Newsagents & Post Office

Volunteers

The Gt Ecclestone Scout Group
St Mary's School Pupils
Bowling Club members
Cricket Club members
Harry Martin
Andy Crook
Frank Croft
David Astall
Mark Lambert
John Clueit
Maureen Parkinson
John Schofield
Joan Schofield
Frank James
Barbara James
Leona McGuinness
Alison Searle (99 years young!)
Bernard residential bungalows
Margaret residential bungalows
Susan Denton
Volunteers from Little Ecclestone
Claire McCarthy
Reg McCarthy
Jane Scott
Andrew Scott
Kate Glancy
Jackie Garth
Julie Parkinson
Sharon Martin
Nathan

The Village Square

This year's theme of vibrant hot colours has been used to brighten up the square and make it more attractive.

As always we have planted the memorial with red flowers.

In the coming year we are planning to refurbish all the benches and bus shelter unfortunately our contractor has just recovered from surgery hence delaying this.



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

The new bed on St Mary's Road to celebrate HM Queens 90th Birthday is now maturing. This was implemented by the Parish Council with help from St Mary's school children. The new area also has an Oak block seat 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. We have also added two new planters outside the bus shelter for aesthetic and safety reasons.

The Parish Council purchased the old payphone box and this is now being used for plants.

Memorial Stone

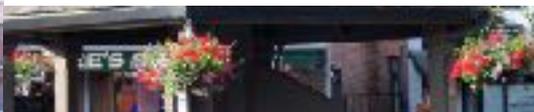
Additional stone planters complete with floral displays have helped make this an attractive area for people to stop and sit. This year we have again planted them with a variety of bedding plants but with red plants still prevalent.



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 and East End Flower Beds

We have arranged for the new West and East End Village Flower Beds to be extended and planted with more sustainable planting. Now the mix of shrubs and perennials should suit this area far better. An addition bed on the north side has been created in an undertaking with Little Ecclestone making their entrance to the village more attractive.

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



Wildlife Area and Substation

The substation at the West End has been planted with natural species of Hawthorn, Holly and Blackthorn to create a better wildlife habitat but also to screen and improve this area. Bird-boxes have been made and hung in the trees by the Scout group.



Lancaster Avenue Trees

During the year Willows have been planted on the green area at Lancaster Avenue, this area traditionally has been very wet and this is an attempt to dry out this area which seems to be working effectively and drying the area.

Great Ecclestone Health Centre

Once again the Scouts from the village planted the beds at the Health Centre. Last year we enlarged the two beds either side of the steps. We hope this will have a beneficial effect on visitors to the Health Centre.



Great Ecclestone Cricket Club & Bowling 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.

The official opening of the Bowling Club 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 Ecclestone Show the Parish Council Trophy for Best Kept Garden

The Great Ecclestone Show is being held this year the weekend after In Bloom judging. There is a competition for best-kept garden run by Great Ecclestone 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. As always the residents are again keen to make an impression for the other residents of the village, all the bungalows now have wall baskets.

They have all worked as a team and further additions have been made to the round 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 is always spectacular.

St Mary's pupils help to tidy the flowerbeds and shrubs at the Residential Bungalows as the planting moves from bedding to more sustainable planting. The school as always are keen to get involved in this project, and 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 Village Centre was opened in 2000 by HRH Princess Royal. Its purpose is to provide a resource for the community offering, many vocational courses and a variety of activities to suit all ages and abilities.



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 a community centre, Health Centre, Dentist, Supermarket, Butcher, Post Office, Cafe and Tea Room, Estate Agent, Fish and Chip Shop and Restaurant, Italian Restaurant, Indian Restaurant, Architects Office, Fruit and Vegetable shop, and three Public Houses, Bakers, three Hairdressers, Newsagents and an Off Licence. Ladies Dress Shop, 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 Great Ecclestone 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 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 organised by the Businesses with the help of the public. Although the Square is now macadamised, it was once cobbled.



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