

Dalston in Bloom 2016

AN ILLUSTRATED PORTFOLIO OF CATEGORIES FROM THE ROYAL
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MARKING SHEET



BRITAIN IN BLOOM® UK FINALIST 2016
with the RHS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3 - 4
Horticultural Achievement Section A	5 - 14
Environmental Responsibility Section B	15 - 22
Community Participation Section C	23 - 30
Appendix 1 and 2 - Slow Worm Survey and Arboriculture Survey	31
Appendix 3 - Volunteer Times	32



The entrances to Dalston are both floral and indicative of the rural situation of the parish.



INTRODUCTION

As stated in the Dalston Neighbourhood Plan currently nearing completion, Dalston Parish is a very special place in which to live, work and visit. The vision of this plan is to protect its rural environment and qualities, to sustain its communities and to encourage change and development, which will serve to preserve and enhance these qualities and lead to a thriving and sustainable future. It lies south and west of the city of Carlisle, but the market towns of Wigton and Penrith are within easy reach and the M6 is only five miles away. Historically the Parish developed through easy communication, fertile land and most importantly from the River Caldew, into an agricultural and industrial Parish.



Dalston Village (population Dalston Ward 1,741, Village 1,287) is a thriving hub of services and facilities and an eclectic mix of farms, residential areas and light industry. The Nestle factory in Dalston village is the largest Nestle processing plant in Europe and has developed directly from its position in this dairy farming area.



Dalston Village is where there are most of the community facilities, residential estates and primary



and secondary schools. There is a railway station and a bus route to Carlisle and a small industrial estate at Barras Lane. At the centre of Dalston is the historic Square, with St. Michael's Church, the Manor House, a working farm, an interesting variety of historic buildings, a pub, tea room, shops and offices. The oldest houses in The Square

are one storey and medieval in origin. Part of the charm of The Square is its mix of domestic and commercial use of buildings. The Square also provides car parking space, but with the addition of the Kingsway facilities the ultimate vision is to make this into a more pedestrian friendly environment for residents and visitors to enjoy. Dalston is situated near one end of the 80 mile long Cumbrian Way and on Sustrans cycle routes, so is frequently used as a refreshment stop.

Dalston is very fortunate in having a thriving community. It has numerous clubs and societies that cater for all age groups and activities. It is a place where things happen and the community really does get involved. At the March coffee morning to raise awareness of the Britain in Bloom Finalist nomination, fifty volunteers signed up to help.



The Dalston Gardening Club held its annual plant sale in May and had its June Evening Visit to five gardens in the village.



Part of the Gold Award winning Cumbria in Bloom display stand at the Holker Garden Festival promoted Dalston in Bloom as a BiB Finalist and several residents were involved in setting up, manning and dismantling the stand.



The Queen's 90th Birthday was celebrated by the lighting of a beacon and fireworks on the Green and a Street Party on the Kingsway, with a residential Open Garden on the same day

to raise money for charity. The Street Party was attended by about 300 residents. The oldest resident, at 102, was presented with a signed print of a recent Parish Paper cover.



The Flower and Craft Club 20th Anniversary 'Dalston in Bloom' Demonstration and Open Evening was held in April.



The Dalston Festival Week, in its eleventh year, runs from 6th - 14th August, culminating in the Dalston Agricultural Society Show on 13th August. There will also be a Flower Festival throughout the week in the church. The theme for 2016 scarecrows, decorated gates and wheelbarrows is *Britain in Bloom*.

SECTION A - HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Dalston people pride themselves in their horticultural achievement. This is shown by the interest in the Cumbria in Bloom competitions over the years, a thriving Gardening Club, now celebrating 25 years, Dalston Flower and Crafts which has been in existence for 20 years, and various floral and vegetable displays at the annual Dalston Show.

The Parish Council promotes floral displays in public areas and uses a horticultural specialist in the parish for the planting up and care of the planters and hanging baskets. Volunteers contribute by looking after key areas such as the Kingsway, the station and church flower beds.

Businesses and organisations are encouraged to express individuality in keeping with the rural character of the environment, but at the same time to appreciate the working nature of the village.

Private residents take pride in their gardens and frontages. All this input culminates in a complete picture.



Gardening around the village is of a high standard, from private gardens in the Summerfield Estate through floral displays by our businesses, beds at the Recreation Building and Dalston Station to planters at the Tennis Club. All are tended by volunteers.



The Lamp, created by a local artist, was commissioned by the Parish Council to celebrate the Millennium, the original one having been removed many years ago. The base, a commemorative seat, is a Listed Building marking the Coronation of George V in 1911. The seating was renovated and replaced by Caldew School pupils. It usually has predominantly red planting in spring and summer to acknowledge the 'Black Red Cockerel' village emblem. The unique badge and motto can be traced to a link between 17th, 18th and early 19th Century cock fighting, education and sport (Dalston School Board seal 1876 and Dalston Black Reds FC 1900).

The Lamp has pride of place close to Dalston Square and is used as a planter for summer and winter bedding plants.

SECTION A1 - IMPACT and HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Mr and Mrs Nichol's house - the first stopover. This residential horticultural achievement is close to the iconic Mill Race. Industrial development was based round the river Caldeu and by 1830 there were four cotton mills, two corn mills, a flax mill and a forge. Bishops Mill, formerly a corn mill, was converted from a joiner's business to residential. The original cotton mill built in 1802 at Ellers Mill was burnt down in 1901 and rebuilt to produce cotton wool and upholstery products, with the brick buildings added in 1938, part of the government's preparation for war. The water wheel was removed from the mill pond in 1970.



The Square, is known as an agricultural village as early as the twelfth century, by 1800, Dalston was a small nucleated village centred round the green. Over the years this became the Square. Every year our display of planters and baskets is of a very high standard.





Hanging basket outside Crumbs and window box on Church House, Dalston Square

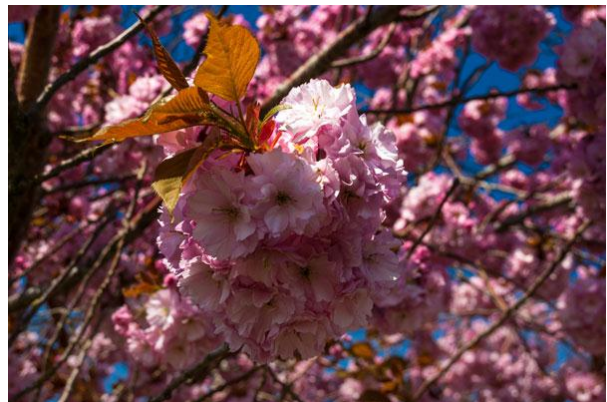
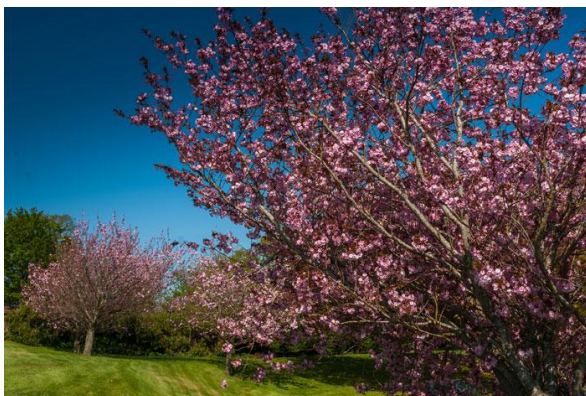
Adjacent to The Square, west and east, are two courtyards which are beautifully tended by their residents.



Number 1 Riverside



Spring Blossom. Dalston is renowned for its spring blossom starting with snowdrops and crocus through daffodils to the wonderful flowering trees.



SECTION A2 - HORTICULTURAL PRACTICE

DALSTON GARDENING CLUB REFURBISHING THE DALSTON JUBILEE GARDEN

by Stewart Hudson



September 2016 is the 25th Anniversary of the founding of our Club. We have organised a celebratory lunch but thought it appropriate to mark the occasion with a permanent, long term project to both enhance the local environment and to increase our Members' gardening skills.

After much thought the ideal project presented itself as the Jubilee Garden, a community garden in the middle of Dalston, opposite the Victory Hall, which was in need of a makeover. It had been partitioned off from The Green in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee when trees were planted and two benches installed. Subsequently some additional trees and two rose beds were added.

By chance, when we were considering this project, the Speaker at our February meeting in the Victory Hall was Liz Newport of Buzy Lizzy Garden Design who kindly surveyed the existing garden and donated to us a Garden Design broadly following our Design Brief.

The Design was to open up the centre of the garden for community activities by removing the two tired rose beds, establish new beds



around the perimeter to provide year round interest with minimum maintenance, crown lift the trees to get more light, reposition the litter bin from its prominent position to a more discreet position, pave the three muddy entrances, reposition the two handsome stone troughs from the

corners to a more prominent position so they could be appreciated, and replace signage at the entrance.



After Dalston Parish Council, and Committee, garden in early got into a

work once or twice a week, starting with beds. With the help of a local contractor turf was stripped off, buried, and the beds turned over, and worked by hand to a fine tilth. The digger also repositioned the litter bin, on its massive foundation, and also removed two tree stumps which were a trip hazard.



consultation with Council, Carlisle City Dalston in Bloom work started on the March 2016. We soon routine of two hours marking out the three

As the trees were now starting to bud we were only able to crown lift two trees which were casting shadow over two beds, the remaining tree work to be completed next winter. A local company, Dalston Aggregates, donated compost (recycled compost from Carlisle City Council Green Bin Scheme), for the

beds and offered the use of their lorry mounted crane to reposition the two stone troughs. A local craftsman built and installed to our design a lockable timber compost bin so in future the garden will be self-sufficient in compost.

The rhododendron and azalea bed was planted up with plants supplied by Alan Clark Rhododendrons, a local specialist supplier, and the bee and butterfly bed with perennials supplied by Hicksons of Dalston and Leslies of Durdar, two local nurseries. The wildflower bed was sown with an annual seed mix called Pixie, supplied by Pictorial Meadows Ltd. of Sheffield, the sowing date carefully chosen so that flowering should be at its best in July and August. The performance of this bed will be monitored over the course of this year before a decision is made about the planting scheme for next year.



Thanks to generous sponsorship from Story Homes, Bobby Nichol directed and organised the paving of the three entrances to the garden.

This project is ongoing as there are additional beds and two benches yet to install. Progress will depend on community encouragement, volunteer enthusiasm, and of course, ongoing funding. Funding to date has been £500 from Dalston Gardening Club and £200 from Cllr Trevor Allison's Discretionary Fund. To date the Volunteers have spent some 176 hours on the project.



SECTION A3 - RESIDENTIAL and COMMUNITY GARDENING

The Forge, built on the site of a smelter (1756) in the 1970's, provides space for gardens between quality houses at the south end of the village in an area called Bridge End. The original Forge produced a wide range of hand tools for agricultural use and some larger horse-drawn machinery from 1756 to 1918.



Forge Green Gardens. Forge Green is the site of the Parish Council offices and two affordable residential units. It is the old Dalston Work House and was sold to the Parish Council in 1895. In 2012 Dalston Parish Council made the southern part of the gardens available for local residents to rent for



gardens are very productive and much sought after.

vegetable and fruit growing. This has proved to be a great success. The



The new **Dalston Recreation Centre** was completed in October 2008. The facility provides space for a wide range of recreational activities, both indoor and outdoor. The football field is home to

Dalston Black Reds and the play area has recently been refurbished benefiting from Section 106 funding from the new Grange Estate currently being built in Dalston by Story Homes. Also on the same site is the Dalston Tennis Club and Dalston Bowling Club. The flower beds around the Centre are a mass of bloom in the summer and do a huge amount to enhance the whole area.



Dalston Bowling Club is a popular important facility in the parish, drawing its members from Dalston and the surrounding area.



The Kingsway is an important recreational and amenity asset for Dalston village. Owing to overspill from The Square, the Parish Council decided to build a new car park at the top of the old road through Dalston, which leads to the White Bridge. While the grass is cut by our contractor, Wigton Town Council, the garden area was laid out by Westwood Nurseries and is kept tidy and weeded by volunteers, helped by a contractor when heavy

jobs need to be done.

The Kingsway leads to the White Bridge, an iconic Dalston feature. The previous bridge used to be one of the main routes across the Caldew for all traffic. The present bridge built in 1999 is now a bridleway and much used by walkers.



Dalston Station is another area in Dalston which is maintained by volunteers. The station gardeners and wider Station Adopters' Group work tirelessly to improve the flower beds and keep them free of weeds.

Around St Michael's Church there are a number of **flower beds** which are looked after by volunteers. One of these can be viewed through the Lych Gate, a popular sitting area for young and old alike.



Close to the Lych Gate is the Dalston War Memorial, the site of a very poignant commemoration of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1st July 1916.



Young people from Caldew School, Dalston's Secondary school, filled boots with suitable plants and laid them at the Memorial. The boots had been hand painted by year 7 in a variety of colours with red poppies as decoration. A short service was led by Revd. Steve Carter. The Caldew School Choir was accompanied by the school orchestra with readings and a specially composed song for the occasion.



SECTION A4 - BUSINESS AREA and PREMISES

The Square. Most of the businesses in and around the Square contribute towards making the area a pleasant place to be. If individual floral baskets/planters are not desired, then window displays reflect the seasons or events, for example Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday and Wimbledon.



Dalston Station. In addition to the Station Gardeners who have developed the borders and planters over many years, a station adopters' group has recently been set up. The role of the 'adopters' is to



report issues to the appropriate agencies, develop an improvement programme, encourage patronage and organize small caretaking jobs. The railway line was opened in 1845 and renovation of the Victorian footbridge is lobbied for and much desired by Dalston residents. The panel murals were designed and created by Caldew School pupils and more are being considered for the opposite side of the track. In the 1930s the oil depot was established in Dalston and expanded in 1970 with 4 new tanks and

a pipeline to the railway. Mallinson Fabrications contributed financially to the re-surfacing of the station yard and additional car parking for railway users was provided when the Summerfield Estate was developed. The scouts and residents have planted spring bulbs and the entrance rowan trees were planted by the Parish Council.

The Nestle plant was opened in 1962 and is sited on 70 acres of land, chosen for its proximity to the river Caldew and subterranean water. Throughout its expansion, development has been carried out with the local environment in mind. Screening trees have been planted and the entrance planting is at its best in the spring. Nestle has close links with the schools and the community in Dalston both financially, and with work opportunities and environmental projects.



Barras Lane Industrial Estate has a unique entrance display provided by David Allen Accountants, depicting the rural character of the area and doubling up as the entrance sign for Dalston. The other 3 entrance planters have been made by Ian Rousell, a resident, with materials supplied by Rosebank Sawmills in the Parish. Cumbria County Council was consulted and gave approval for the sites and dimensions.

SECTION A5 - GREEN SPACES

Green spaces are much cherished in Dalston, with views to the river, fells and tree areas appreciated on a daily basis. There is a network of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish and a 'Map Pack' was produced in 2000 and has since been available for purchase.



The Green was gifted to the Parish Council by Mrs Stead with the proviso that it was not to be built on and it was subsequently placed on the Commons Register as a Village Green. It is let to Church Farm in the Square for grazing and is open to the public for recreational purposes. In 1890 Carlisle Golf Club had a 9 hole course on the Green - features such as bunkers can still be seen from the air. During the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001 the handful of cows and

calves were looked for every day as a symbol of hope, so there was much grief in the village when they succumbed. Community activities such as bonfires and beacons take place on the Green and a commemorative oak tree was planted for the Diamond Jubilee.

The Recreation Centre, Play Area and Field are constantly in use for sporting and other activities and are heavily used by residents and visitors throughout the year. The Recreation Association, Tennis and Bowling Clubs look after this area of Dalston. Dalston Agricultural Society owns the Show Field which is grazed apart from the run up to and Show Day in August.



The Kingsway car parking area and planting was completed in autumn 2012, with further landscaping and improvements to the Kingsway carried out the following and subsequent years. The whole area was planned to fit in to the environment as much as possible, whilst providing a green space to be enjoyed for recreational purposes.

The verges in Dalston are managed by a combination of Cumbria County, Carlisle City and Dalston Parish Council contractors. In the spring, Dalston is noted for its daffodils and other wild flowers in the verges.

SECTION B - ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY



residents and visitors alike.

Keeping Dalston tidy and free of litter and dog dirt is a high priority. We have volunteers who spend time nearly every day picking-up litter. Dalston is attractive to dog walkers, so ensuring that they pick-up the mess left by their dogs is a high priority. Dalston has plenty of bins around all the open spaces, and these are well used by



Recycling. Dalston has a very busy recycling centre in the Glave Hill car park. With litter picking being undertaken on a daily basis by Stephanie Diver, 1,008 bags of litter were collected in 2015 by her and 515 so far this year. Since 1997 Stephanie has collected 17,803 bags and walks over 1,000 miles a year on this task.



Dalston Public Toilets. The public toilets are maintained by Carlisle City Council and are an important asset for walkers and cyclists visiting Dalston. Recently the opening and closing of the toilets has been taken on by local businesses.



The Parish Council works with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Eden Rivers Trust to ensure that the river Caldew is kept free of pollution, the banks are stabilised against erosion and the flora and fauna are protected. The Council manages the riverside footpath through Forge Green Wood to the Green.

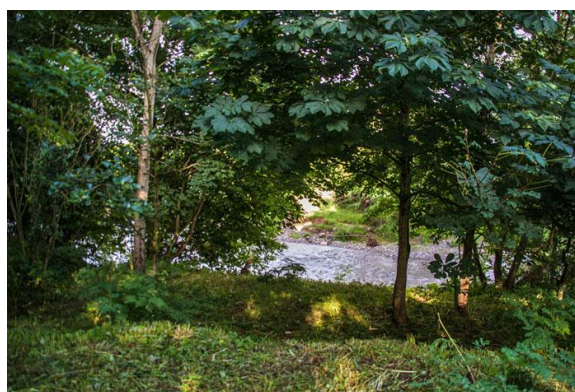
SECTION B1 - CONSERVATION and BIODIVERSITY

The River Caldew is a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The river flows through the centre of the village and, as well as being highly valued for its flora and fauna, provides an area of recreation for walkers and fishermen.

River Caldew from the Cemetery



River Caldew from the Millennium Garden



The Caldew is one of the widest rivers in Cumbria. It meets the Eden and the Petteril in Carlisle and, unfortunately, has contributed to the devastating flooding in Carlisle three times since 2005.



River Caldew the day after Storm Desmond in December 2015

Dalston Cemetery is owned by Dalston Parish Council and supported by a Cemetery Working Group. This group is responsible for proposing the programme of management and obtaining quotations for agreement by the Parish Council, whilst implementing some of the minor tasks on a volunteer basis. The plan is continually updated.

Two members of the Cemetery Working Group attended a 'Caring for God's Acre' seminar in 2015. A great deal of the Cemetery Maintenance Schedule relating to grassland management and treatment of flora was substantiated at the event in terms of the creation of wildlife corridors. This also applied to the care of other areas in Dalston such as the Kingsway. Wildflower plug planting has also been undertaken by volunteers in the Cemetery and in the Forge Green wildflower meadow.

The leylandii cemetery hedge was recently replaced by a native species mixed hedge from The Woodland Trust. Cherry trees have been planted in the conservation area and screening trees planted in the hedge to screen the view to the Nestle factory.



The Hearse House is an old Victorian building in Dalston Cemetery, once used by the Parish Council to store grass-cutting and burial equipment. In recent years it started to fall into disrepair, so it was renovated by Alan Dinning, Brian Hetherington and Ian Newton. It is hoped to use the building for wildlife related activities as an outreach centre for local schools. An owl box has been installed in the roof (inset) and we are waiting on a barn owl taking up residence. If that happens, a camera will be installed with connection to St Michael's primary school. Prior to building works a bat survey was carried out.

A number of **bird boxes**, have been erected and maintained by Dalston Scouts, in the cemetery, Jubilee Garden and the Kingsway, and these are used from time to time.



Dalston cemetery is famous for its population of **Slow worms**. This is one of the few colonies in the north of England.



Slow worms are legless burrowing lizards and are very shy. They spend a lot of time in dense vegetation and underground. A population has been



known to occur in the churchyard for many years, but sightings have been few and far between. There are no other recorded populations within a 20 mile radius. The slow worm is a protected species. It is only found in long grass between the church and The Square. Frequent mowing and strimming destroys the slow worm habitat and causes death or injury. For this reason, part of the area is left unmown during the summer months. The Parish Council commissioned a slow worm survey in 2013. Details of this can be found in the Appendix.



Hedgehog Boxes. Two hedgehog boxes have been placed in Dalston Cemetery as well as a bug and slow worm hotel.

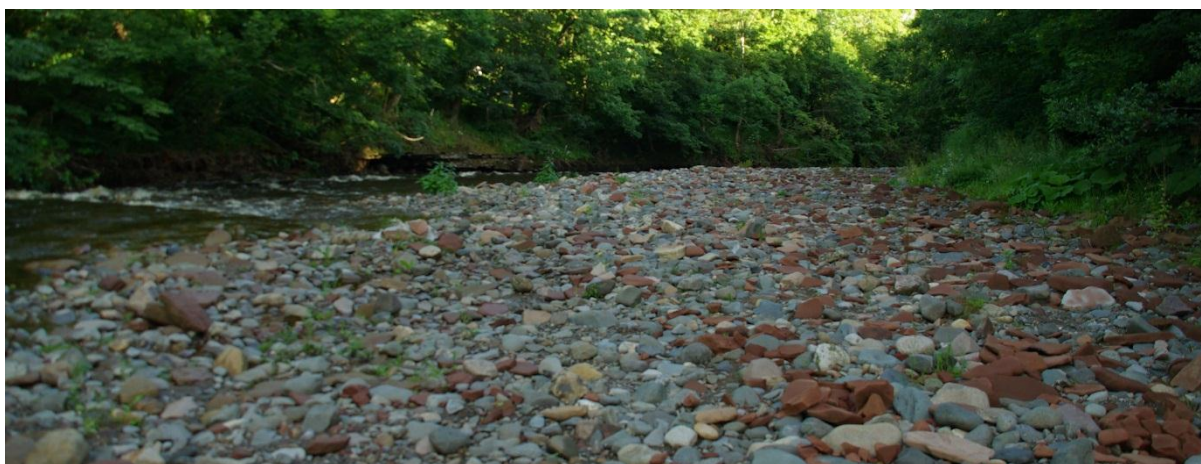


SECTION B2 - RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Carlisle City Council operates an alternating fortnightly kerbside collection of household waste and recyclable materials. The Recycling Centre bins in Glave Hill car park (owned by the Victory Hall) are emptied regularly - glass, plastics, drink cans & tins, paper and cardboard. The litter bins are also emptied three times per week. Garden waste collection goes to Carlisle City Council to be composted, then comes back to Dalston via sales at Dalston Aggregates.

Individual households have water butts to collect rainwater. Two have also been installed on the Hearse House in the Cemetery and the water can be used for floral tributes on graves.

Parishioners have the right to small scale extraction of gravel from Silent Quarry (the river bank near Forge Green) subject to a license from the Environment Agency. These river stones have been used in gardens and properties over the years and a wall, recognised as part of Dalston heritage has been re-built by Story Homes adjacent to the Townhead Road entrance to the new housing estate.



Original wall built from a mix of river stones, probably from Silent Quarry near Forge Green



SECTION B3 - LOCAL HERITAGE

Mill Race. Dalston in Bloom has been running a project with the Parish Council, Environment Agency and the local mill owner to clean and restore the Mill Race to its original state. This is a long term project. Work in the water can only be done at certain times of the year and with the explicit permission of the Environment Agency.



Gun Emplacement. Adjacent to the Victory Hall this was reputed to have had an excellent range of fire up and down the Green (A Parish Remembers The War Years 1939 -1945). Anne Nichol made a model of this for the Dalston in Bloom display at the Holker Garden Festival at the beginning of June.



Bishop's Mill Garden



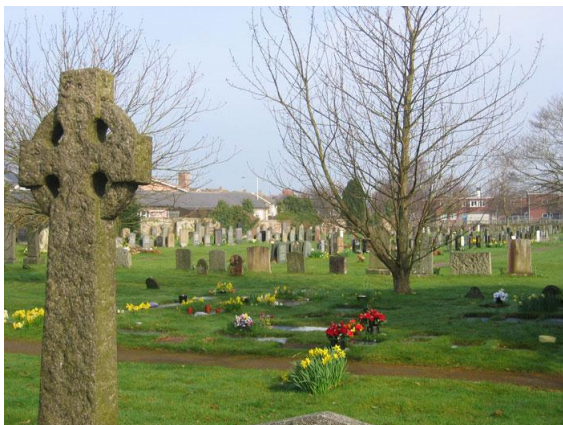
Other Local Heritage features are evident in The Square, St Michael's Church, The Green and at Forge Green. There are many Listed Buildings in Dalston village, especially in the Square.

SECTION B4 - LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

The privately owned Manor House in the Square is currently undergoing renovation and discussions have taken place with the Parish Council regarding the re-painting of the frontage, preparations for which have begun. Story Homes keep the entrances to its construction site in good order. Litter, graffiti, fly-posting, dog fouling etc. are dealt with on a regular basis including assistance from the appropriate department at Carlisle City Council with signs, visits and occasional enforcement. Cllrs Trevor Allison and Ann McKerrell liaise in these matters and also frequently get involved on the ground.

The Public Toilets were repainted and renovated by Carlisle City Council in 2015 and trellises erected for planting. Volunteers tidied up the outside area and have continued to maintain the planting.

Dalston Cemetery is maintained by Dalston Parish Council. It is one of only a few cemeteries in Cumbria in the control of a Parish Council.



SECTION B5 - PRIDE OF PLACE

Street Furniture. The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of seating, notice boards, litter bins and bus shelters in most parts of Dalston. The litter bins were renovated in 2015 and the bus shelter on the Green was re-painted by the Scouts this year. The Community Pay Back Team painted the railings round the Jubilee Garden and touched up the paint work on the White Bridge.



Grass cutting and general maintenance in much of the public space in the village centre, recreation field, churchyard and cemetery is contracted out by Dalston Parish Council to Wigton Town Council. There is a grass cutting and maintenance specification for village and parish public areas. Other areas of grass are cut by Riverside Housing, Carlisle City Council, school and business contractors. A gardener was employed to carry out additional work in the Kingsway car park.

Carlisle City Council employee blowing debris >>>

Dalston Cemetery. Wigton Town Council contractors used by the Parish Council work to a specified Maintenance Schedule and Plan.

Volunteers are the basis for Pride of Place in Dalston - without them it would not be so special.



SECTION C - COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

There are numerous individuals and many organisations that all play their part in keeping Dalston a clean and attractive place. Other volunteers have been out on the village approach road verges and the Scouts have had group litter picking sessions along the river and at the station (plus adults!). Other residents regularly weed and sweep around the community, dead head and water as required.



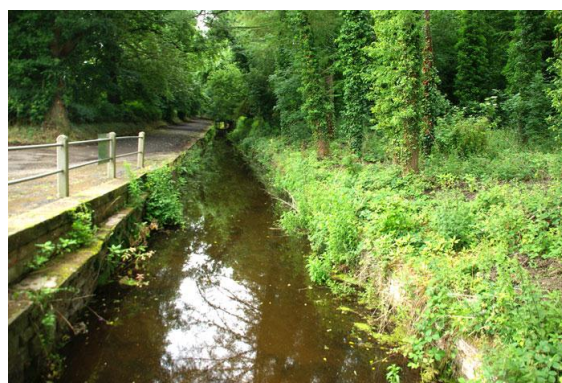
When an invitation, delivered to every household and businesses in the village, to a 'Dalston in Bloom - Britain in Bloom NEEDS YOU!' event on 19th March 2016 about 100 people turned up over the course of the morning. It resulted in 50 volunteers offering to spend some time helping in the ensuing weeks. Since the beginning of June weekly work groups have been seen on a Wednesday evening in different allocated sectors - it is surprising how other people get inspired to do their bit! Most importantly, new friends have been made.



SECTION C1 - DEVELOPMENT and CONTINUITY

Dalston in Bloom operates all the year round. This year we have assembled a much larger team of dedicated volunteers than in the past. This is helped by modern email communication whereby we can send out a regular email full of information. Some volunteers have been heard to remark that this work has provided an excellent opportunity for them to meet new people. Dalston Parish Council has provided a great deal of continuity by promoting a number of year round projects. The Dalston in Bloom Steering Group has met regularly and has discussed and implemented a number of projects.

One of the big projects this year has been trying to return the **Mill Race** to its former glory. This stream exits the Caldew at the Hawkesdale Weir and re-enters the river close to the White Bridge. A successful implementation of this project, which is expected to complete in 2017, will be obtaining co-operation from the Environment Agency, who have been fully pre-occupied by the flooding in Cumbria.



Jubilee Garden. Reference to Section A2 in this Portfolio will show that the Jubilee Garden project is expected to continue into 2017, and perhaps beyond. Our Jubilee Garden is intended to provide a dog free area for residents to relax with their families in very pleasant surroundings.



Co-op Area. Some years ago a new Co-op store was built in Dalston. This is a huge improvement on the old building. It is hoped that we can work with the landowner to improve the environs of the store, perhaps providing better quality paths and planting to soften the entrance area.



Dalston Co-op

SECTION C2 - COMMUNICATION and EDUCATION

There are two schools in Dalston. St Michael's C of E primary school enters the Cumbria in Bloom School Gardening Competition and in 2016 has run a poster competition with locally sponsored prizes. Caldew School regularly works in the community. One of the projects this year was to grow plants in their nursery for use in the Battle of the Somme commemoration and the planted Wellie Boots display at the Recreation Centre. The pupils planted these up together with St Michael's Pre-School Nursery children.



Adam Couling making Hedgehog Boxes for Dalston cemetery at Denton Woodcraft, which is part of Cumbria County Council. This publicity picture was provided by the Centre and has been used on the Dalston in Bloom website.

Parish Paper. Dalston publishes 10 copies per annum of a much read and valued Parish Paper. The 2016 publications have carried a monthly article about our two Dalston in Bloom entries - Cumbria in Bloom in July and Britain in Bloom in the Large Village category. The magazine is regularly between 40 and 50 pages in length and is totally self-financing through classified advertising and subscriptions.

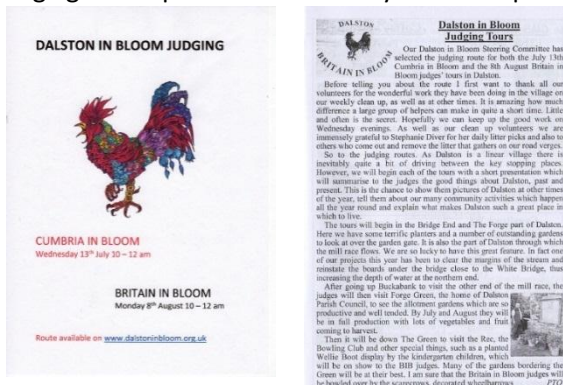


The Dalston website is a much used resource. There are two main sites – www.dalston.org.uk and www.dalstoninbloom.org.uk. The latter has been covering all the main events in the 2016 Dalston in Bloom activities and is the go-to resource for News and pictures.



Publicity

Judging dates poster and monthly Parish Paper articles



Newspaper and Parish Paper Articles

Dalston In Bloom

Our parish council chairman, Ronnie Auld, is delighted with the show of daffodils in Dalston this year. Ronnie will be updating the gallery of pictures on his website with his latest crop of photographs.

On April 13 Dalston Flowers and Crafts held an open night as part of their 20th birthday celebrations. Liz Auld attended and Ronnie has posted her photos and Pam Coke's report on the Dalston website: www.dalston.org.uk/DalstoninBloom

Liz hosted a visit by Alan Heath and Colin Cheyne to discuss a forthcoming Cumbria in Bloom judges' seminar to be held in Dalston. They took the opportunity to take a look round the village and were impressed with what they saw, in particular the cemetery.

The next job is to develop the job list which volunteers will be interested to hear. Cynthia Miller has already started work on this and it is hoped to have a list available in time for the Dalston annual parish meeting on Tuesday, May 3 in the Victory Hall. You can become a Friend of Britain in Bloom by making a donation to our Britain in Bloom fund. Any small donation will be gratefully received and all money will be used to help fund plants and other items needed for Dalston's entry.

We are also looking for businesses to sponsor one or other of the projects planned as part of Dalston's efforts in this competition. Please contact the clerk at Dalston Parish Council, Forge Green, Dalston CA5 7QG.

Flower & Crafts

On Wednesday evening we opened our doors and started an open night. Guests from local flower clubs were invited to join us and local residents were also made very welcome.

We had a very popular demonstrator Patti Dawson from Morland, Penrith to entertain us for the evening, using some elaborate containers, one made out of entwined twigs another covered



Ronnie Auld. Hanging baskets, planters and front gardens are only a tiny part of it now.

Dalston aiming to flourish in Britain in Bloom contest

10th years now Dalston has been winning gold awards for its floral display in Cumbria in Bloom. Yet it's never represented the county at national level – until now.

The village has been nominated as Cumbria's representative in the large village category of Britain in Bloom. And Ronnie Auld, chairman of the steering committee who are managing things, says: "We are very excited about it."

"It's a great privilege, and a wonderful thing for the people of Dalston."

Judges will be coming to the village on Monday, August 8, during the week-long Dalston Festival.

But as Ronnie explains, they do more than just look at the flowers.

"Hanging baskets, planters and front gardens are only a tiny part of it now," he explains. Community participation and environmental responsibility are also taken into consideration. So they'll be looking at communication, education, year-round involvement, conservation, biodiversity and management of resources – as well as the displays.

The village festival is always held in early August, so hasn't been arranged to coincide with the judging.

But Ronnie points out that it will work out well for them, as Dalston will be looking to best that week.

"There's a huge amount going on at that time of year. There's the flower festival on in the church, there's the garden gate competition and of course the scarecrow festival. They'll all enhance the Britain in Bloom entry."

Wildlife officers seize snowdrops

A CUMBRIAN man is facing a possible prosecution after police raided his home – and seized 5,000 snowdrop plants.

The unusual raid, which was carried out by specialist officers on a property in Great Orton, near Carlisle, happened last month as part of an operation against sus-

pected wildlife crime.

Andy McWilliam, an investigations officer with the National Wildlife Crime Unit, which was involved in the raid, said it is an offence to uproot any wild flower as they are legally protected.

Mr McWilliam said: "The Wildlife and Countryside Act is there to

protect our natural world. Snowdrops can actually be traded if they are lawfully acquired, for legally imported but that would not be the case if they have been taken from the wild. Basically, it's an offence to uproot any wild plants."

The 63-year-old Great Orton man, whose name has not been

made public, was voluntarily interviewed and reported for alleged offences contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Control of Trade in Endangered Species Regulations of 1997.

The Crown Prosecution Service is now considering whether or not to proceed with a prosecution.

Page 24

Bally Mael, Monday, May 9, 2015

Mystery of village's vanishing snowdrops

5,000 bulbs seized after prime suspect is named by council

By Chris Brooke

WALLCROFT have long made a bee-line for the village to enjoy the spectacular wildflowers in the surrounding woods and countryside, so when locals began to notice that large numbers of snowdrops were going missing they were determined to catch the culprit deflowering their Cumbrian beauty spot.

On Tuesday night a day before a meeting with a suspect was named as a threat to Dalston Parish Council. Police subsequently obtained a search warrant and raided the home of Bill Adams, a 63-year-old Great Orton man.

Officers seized around 5,000 snowdrop bulbs from the end-of-terrace property along with hundreds of wild garlic.

Mr Adams is now waiting to hear if he will be prosecuted for planting thousands of wildflower plants. The police investigation

will also look at claims the bulbs may have been traded online.

Officers of the missing wildflowers for more than a year. Reports were passed to the parish council and by last August Mr Adams was named as the suspect in the missing snowdrops.

Mr Adams from Great Orton has been named as the suspect in the missing snowdrops. A spokesman for the unit said: "As a result of the search, officers seized around 5,000 wild snowdrop bulbs and instant numbers of blue-bells and wild garlic."

A 63-year-old man from Great Orton has been named as the suspect in the missing snowdrops and reported for offences contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Control of Trade in

Endangered Species (Regulation) 1997. Although people can pick most wildflowers without need of permission, it is illegal to uproot wild plants in the wild. It is also illegal to sell them.

Andy McWilliam, an investigations officer with the National Wildlife Crime Unit, said: "Basically, it's an offence to uproot any wild flower as they are legally protected."

The law is there to protect species which would be at risk of the trade in them wasn't controlled.

and people thought there was money to be made. In the meantime, we've got lots of information that people are involved in this sort of illegal trade."

Mr Adams, a married father, was previously working in his garden and said he was "upset" over what had happened, adding: "I don't want to comment."

Two bags of bulbs seized in the raid were handed over to parish council chairman Ronnie Auld. Volunteers will replant them in the



Bill Adams yesterday waiting to hear if he will face charges.

local countryside. Mr Auld said: "We have been running high about the disappearing flora. 'Everyone is helping out', he added. 'The World was just one of the places that was happening. It could get people a shock and they would be told that who was responsible. Information was passed to a police officer and that's what it is. It's a great privilege, and a wonderful thing for the people of Dalston.'"

Judges will be coming to the village on Monday, August 8, during the week-long Dalston Festival.

But as Ronnie explains, they do more than just look at the flowers.

"Hanging baskets, planters and front gardens are only a tiny part of it now," he explains. Community participation and environmental responsibility are also taken into consideration. So they'll be looking at communication, education, year-round involvement, conservation, biodiversity and management of resources – as well as the displays.

The village festival is always held in early August, so hasn't been arranged to coincide with the judging.

Yorkshire TV recently filmed Dalston and a few parishioners about this case.

Radio and TV. Ronnie Auld, Chairman of the Dalston in Bloom Steering Group, has been interviewed at least once for local radio. It is hoped that local TV will attend the Press Event on 8th August.

Cumbria in Bloom Awards. Dalston has won many awards from Cumbria in Bloom. 2015 was one of the most successful years.



BRILLIANT DALSTON WINS GOLD IN CUMBRIA IN BLOOM

Updated Sep 17th, 2015

BRILLIANT DALSTON WINS GOLD IN CUMBRIA IN BLOOM

For the second year running Dalston village has won the National Park Trophy Gold award in the Cumbria in Bloom Best Large Village competition. The trophy was presented by the Mayor of Carlisle at the ceremony in Bolton-in-Furness on 16th September 2015. Volunteer representatives from the village attended the event. The quality of planting took the judges' eye even although the season was so late. They were able to tell how good the planters and baskets were going to look as the summer progressed.

The Gold award was far from all that the team collected. In addition the Parish Council won, on behalf of St Michael's Church, the Provincial Insurance trophy for Churchyards in the Pride in Your Community category. This is a great tribute to all those volunteers and contractors (Wigton Town Council) that work so hard to keep our cemetery and churchyard looking so good.

Dalston Village also won the Cumbria County Council Carlisle Local Committee Award for Achievement in the District.

These major awards were supplemented by the Cumbria in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood Awards as follows - Dalston Village, Square, Kingsway Car Park and Jubilee Garden (level 5 Outstanding), Indian King Court and 4 The Square (level 5 Outstanding) and Dalston Station Gardeners (level 4 Thriving).

These awards are a great testament to the work of many volunteers and contractors who work tirelessly to keep Dalston Village looking so good. Dalston Parish Council is grateful to them all.

As part of the build up to the Award Ceremony, Liz Auld from Cumbria in Bloom, showed a selection of slides from around the county at the recent meeting of the Dalston Gardening Club. Members enjoyed this visual tour highlighting the best from the In Bloom, Schools, Tourism and It's Your Neighbourhood categories. The talk ended with a wonderful video made by the pupils of Dane Ghyll Primary School in Barrow.

Ronnie Auld
Chairman Dalston Parish Council



SECTION C3 - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Bus Shelter. Dalston Scouts do a great deal of excellent work in the community, much too much to list here. They erect and look after bird boxes on the Kingsway and in the cemetery and they, very willingly, paint our bus shelters.



The Recreation Centre is a valuable facility in the centre of Dalston. One of the Dalston in Bloom 2016 projects is a display of planted Wellington Boots. Year 7 pupils from Caldew School helped the Pre School Nursery children plant decorated Wellington Boots to display on both Cumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom judging days.





Volunteer Coffee Morning, St Michael's Church 19th March 2016. This event was held to introduce the community to the challenges of both Cumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom this year. Over the course of a full morning about 100 members of the community attended and this resulted in a database of around 50 committed volunteers.



Mill Race Project. Dalston Mill Race was in a poor state of repair. This is such a valuable asset to the community that there was a strong will to try and improve the margins without actually going into the water (this required Environment Agency permission). Using a local contractor, the northern end of the Race roadway was scraped and cleaned of weed and soil accumulation. It was then swept to reveal the hitherto hidden tarmac underneath. The boards which ought to be in place to hold back the water to ensure a reasonable depth were then replaced. Once the water had cleared the transformation was dramatic. Funding was obtained by the Parish Council to pay for the services of the contractor. It is hoped to complete this project in 2017.



The Mill Race dam is reinstated

SECTION C4 - YEAR ROUND INVOLVEMENT

Christmas Festival Immediately after the December 2015 flood event in Carlisle Dalston Festival Committee organised a hugely successful Christmas Market in Dalston Square and St Michael's Church. This was much appreciated by all those in the area suffering the consequence of yet another major flood event.



Cemetery Working Group. The five members meet as required throughout the year to inspect work in progress and identify tasks to be undertaken by volunteers or contractors. Recommendations are put to the Parish Council for approval and estimates sought for funding as appropriate. A rolling Programme of Work 2011 - 2018 is maintained. In 2015 two members attended a seminar entitled Caring for God's Acre and some aspects of biodiversity and conservation have been taken on board to enhance the use of Cemeteries as wildlife corridors. This also applies to other green spaces in the village.

Christmas Tree Festival in St Michael's Church



Dalston Festival 2016. For 11 years Dalston has run a week-long Festival in August culminating in the hugely popular Dalston Agricultural Show. This year the theme of the Festival is Britain in Bloom. Under this theme there will be scarecrows, decorated garden gates and open gardens.

Dalston Festival Week 6th - 13th August 2016									
Saturday 6th	Sunday 7th	Monday 8th	Tuesday 9th	Wednesday 10th	Thursday 11th	Friday 12th	Saturday 13th	Sunday 14th	Monday 15th
The Festival Ground 10.00 - 4.00 Entertainment Food and Refreshments Contact Peter Kirby 017683 71020	Guided Tour 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 at the Recreation Field and then Family 12.00 - 1.00 At the Rec. Stargazing 7.00 - 8.00 At the Rec. Refreshments	Monday - Friday Dalston Methodist Chapel 10.00 - 11.00 Tea and coffee 11.00 - 12.00 Open Gardens 10.00 - 6.00 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 At the Rec. Refreshments	Wednesday 10th Open Gardens 10.00 - 6.00 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 At the Rec. Refreshments	Thursday 11th Open Gardens 10.00 - 6.00 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 At the Rec. Refreshments	Friday 12th Open Gardens 10.00 - 6.00 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 At the Rec. Refreshments	Saturday 13th Open Gardens 10.00 - 6.00 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 At the Rec. Refreshments	Sunday 14th Open Gardens 10.00 - 6.00 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 At the Rec. Refreshments	Monday 15th Open Gardens 10.00 - 6.00 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 At the Rec. Refreshments	Tuesday 16th Open Gardens 10.00 - 6.00 10.00 - 11.00 Refreshments 11.00 - 12.00 At the Rec. Refreshments

The Festival is designed to celebrate everything that is great about Dalston. The programme is carefully balanced to appeal to all members of the community. Once the Festival finishes in August, the Festival Committee starts planning the event for the following year. After 11 years the Committee knows exactly what is needed to run a successful event the following year. We are very lucky that the theme for 2016 reflects the privilege of being able to enter the RHS Britain in Bloom competition for large villages.

SECTION C5 FUNDING and SUPPORT

Grants and Sponsors	£2000.00
Friends	£ 444.00
Friends – Benefits in kind	£ 500.00
Itemised Costs	£1442.86
Parish Council (est)	£5000.00

SPONSORSHIP



Nestlé



Ben Hodgson Cars



Dalston Aggregates



Amberol



Buzy Lizzie



Story Homes



David Allen Accountants

Bryan Hetherington Ltd

APPENDIX 1 - SLOW WORM SURVEY

Due to the importance of the slow worm population in Dalston Cemetery the Parish Council has relied on a full survey carried out by Hesketh Ecology in 2012. The population is constantly under review by Hesketh Ecology and Mr David Hickson, a local ecologist.

Summary

8.1.1 This report details a reptile survey conducted at St Michael's Church, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA5 7LN.

8.1.2 Following a full reptile survey a 'good' population of slow-worms has been identified on site.

8.1.3 A management plan and recommended enhancement measures are presented in this report to ensure protected species legislation is not breached and to enhance the site for slowworms.

An indicative plan of proposed measures and enhancements is provided. It should be noted that this is indicative only and should be used to inform a detailed plan. It may be that all recommendations are adopted as suggested. From a legal point of view it is important that all the bullet point recommendations made in Paragraph 7.2.1 are observed. The bullet point recommendations made in Paragraph 7.2.2 will serve to enhance the site for slow-worms.



Hesketh Ecology.

Web: www.heskethecology.com Email: sam@heskethecology.com

Tel: 01697 331986 Mob: 07786318302

APPENDIX 2 - ARBORICULTURAL SURVEY

An arboriculture survey was commissioned by UPM Tilhill in 2013. Since then Dalston Parish Council has carefully followed the recommendations in this comprehensive report.



UPM Tilhill Tree Safety Inspection

Property: The Cemetery & The Green

Prepared by : Marcus Wright

On behalf of: Dalston Parish Council

Date: 23rd October 2014



APPENDIX 3 - VOLUNTEER TIMES

Dalston in Bloom - Volunteer Hours

	Nbr	Hours	Living WageRate/Hour	Value
Stephanie Diver *	1	450	£7.20	£3,240.00
Ian Gray *	1	100	£7.20	£720.00
Cynthia Millar	1	100	£7.20	£720.00
Pat Jackson	1	200	£7.20	£1,440.00
Station Gardeners	1	60	£7.20	£432.00
Ronnie Auld	1	150	£7.20	£1,080.00
Liz Auld	1	50	£7.20	£360.00
Scouts	1	90	£7.20	£648.00
Volunteers	35	10	£7.20	£2,520.00
Trevor Smith	1	50	£7.20	£360.00
Bobby and Anne Nichol	1	200	£7.20	£1,440.00
Jubilee Gardeners	1	176	£7.20	£1,267.20
Unknown volunteer time	10	35	£7.20	£2,520.00
Cemetery Working Group	1	25	£7.20	£180.00
Grand Total				£16,927.20

*Daily and very difficult to estimate