

HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

# Shoreline Summary

LOVE HESKETH BANK

*Hesketh Out Marsh*

*Edition 39 November 2015*

## Best Kept Competition success

The Parish Council would like to thank all of the residents that keep their piece of Hesketh Bank looking smart. Not only because it makes our village nice, but because it has resulted in us achieving 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 14 entries in the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition.

Councillor Ron Tyson, who led our submission, said "We also won Certificates of Merit across the whole of Lancashire for the Community Centre 'Public Garden' and 'Notice Board' Class, so we are definitely doing something right." "Booths" Foodstore also excelled themselves by being judged the best within any village across Lancashire.

To complement the county wide competition and as part of the Love Hesketh Bank campaign, The Parish Council ran its own 'Best Kept' competition for the first time this summer.

Judges, Mrs Tyson of Landsdowne Camping and Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea, were tasked with finding the best kept front garden, business premises and allotment in the village from nominations by Parish Councillors. Judging took place during the first three weeks in July and a shortlist drawn up. Then on 22nd July the winners were announced and they received tickets to Southport Flower Show as prizes.

The results were as follows:

### Best Kept Front Garden:

**Joint Winners: 9 Chandlers Croft and 34 Becconsall Lane**

### Highly Commended:

188 Moss Lane; 4 Delta Park Drive; 35 Delta Park Drive;  
11 Ribble Drive; 12 Delta Park Drive; 28 Moss Lane;  
1 Sidney Avenue; 6 Woodlee Road; 159 Moss Lane.

Allan and Johan (Nan) Clark from 34 Becconsall Lane said they were "Pleased and surprised", when they received a Parish Council letter saying they had won the Front Garden category in their 'Best Kept' competition.

The judges said "It was a pleasure to go around the village and see so many lovely gardens, but that made it difficult to decide on the shortlist. The home owners that made it onto the shortlist should be very proud."

### Best Kept Business Premises:

**Winners: All Saints School**

### Highly Commended:

R&J Wright Haulage; Hesketh Bank Fish Bar; Top Shop Newsagents; Shore Farm

The judges said "The school was an outright winner for us because it is well kept, well thought out and educational."



## Best Kept Allotment

Joint Winners: Plots 15 & 37



## Highly Commended:

Plots 55; 35; 51; 9; 10; 21; 18a; 27 & 36

John Birchall, who owns Plot 15, and Fred and Susan Smith, owners of Plot 37, on Hesketh Bank Allotments thanked Farrington's of Guide Road who supply a lot of plants free to the plot holders.

The judges said ““This was probably the most difficult category to judge. It was a pleasure to visit the allotments, which is a real gem in the village.”



Councillor Diane Earles, who led the working party for the project, said “We would like to thank our judges for their hard work and deliberations. It is clear that we have a lot of people that take pride in their piece of Hesketh Bank, which is what this competition was all about. Congratulations to the winners and to everyone in the village that makes it a pleasant place to live.”

Let's aim to win the Lancashire Best Kept Competition next year!

Some of the winners and runners up with their certificates following a presentation at the Hesketh Bank Horticultural Show

## Becconsall U3A Birthday Party and an Open Day!

From the formation by the Parish Council a year ago, **Becconsall U3A** in Hesketh Bank has grown to over 100 members and 12 interest groups and whilst we are pleased with progress so far, we recognised that we need to do more and offer more and for that we needed additional members and group convenors. The support from the North West Region of the U3A and Jenny Carley from the U3A Trust in particular has been marvellous and their encouragement has made all the difference. We have also sought to be involved with our local network so have joined in meetings and workshops as well as sending two Committee members to this year's National Conference in Nottingham. This has been particularly useful and we have learnt much from the more experienced and larger groups around us.

A website was built as part of an integrated communications programme and we have used bulk email to communicate with the majority of our members. This is in its early stages of development and we intend to do more with it in the coming year. Key, also is our weekly coffee morning where members meet and are updated on upcoming meetings and events.



At Becconsall U3A we celebrated our first birthday with a spectacular party to say thank you to our members for their support and followed it a few weeks later with an Open Day to increase awareness of U3A, help grow our membership and increase the number of interest groups we can offer. This was part of a strategic plan to develop

our U3A and in this respect, our Becconsall U3A Committee has long recognised the importance of improving the awareness of the U3A in the community so a sub-group of five members was set up to organise the party and the Open Day.



The Birthday party was based on the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and the members joined together to provide the catering. In Lancashire, it's called a Jacob's Join and members created an amazing spread of food. It was, like much of our U3A activity, a great team effort. The hall was decorated with flowers, a tunnel entrance, bunting and balloons. Over the last year, we have established a reputation for the quality and quantity of cakes that are produced for meetings and events and the party was no different – it was a fantastic “cake fest”. To finish off, there was a game of pass the parcel and a hilarious monologue created by four of our members. We felt it really important for our members to celebrate our first year with a memorable event and it was a great success.



Local MP, Seems Kennedy (centre) with Becconsall U3A Chairman, Terry Baldwin and U3A Regional Trustee, Jenny Carley

Organising an Open Day is another matter and as others have told us, not for the faint hearted. Posters in local shops and the library had only generated a few new members so we knew that we needed an event to “fly the flag”. A small exhibition in the local library in the month before the Open Day confirmed the correctness of the decision as a great deal of interest in U3A was generated. As a new U3A, we had no display boards or promotional materials so we were starting from scratch. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Third Age Trust to help with publicity and a further grant from the Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council allowed us to buy all the display boards we needed.

From research that we had done, we found that the U3A name is not well known locally even though we had put up posters and had press releases published, so we wanted the Open Day to be inclusive. It had to be appealing to all age groups so other related organisations were invited to come along – Age UK, PensionWise, and Queens Court Hospice. A programme of entertainment was planned and general interest stalls set up. Our Social Secretary, Christine Smith designed and produced the information displayed on the panels and, with Sue Ellis and Rose Yates, planned the room layout and masterminded the decoration. Members were on hand to talk to visitors and some groups gave practical demonstrations of what they did at their meetings.



We designed and printed a mailshot that was circulated with newspaper deliveries, put posters up everywhere that we could, hung a huge banner in the local supermarket car park, handed out leaflets to shoppers and sent out press releases – some of which were actually published. With the recognised financial difficulties that many

local newspapers are experiencing, placing press releases can be a challenge but it is worth the effort to try. We could do no more and although there was intermittent rain on the day, the Open Day was very well attended throughout the day - in fact, it was pleasing that many who came for the start were still there when the doors closed.



We were also pleased that our local MP, Seema Kennedy agreed to come along and open the event. It transpired that our local MP needed no briefing - she knew all about U3A as members of her family had joined and were enjoying their membership. Many local politicians came along too so it became very much a public relations event for us. Jenny Carley, Gill Russell and Suzanne Watkinson joined us for the day and we were delighted to see them.



With food and refreshments on offer, and, of course, our famous cakes as well as entertainment from David Lythgoe, a poet from Upholland U3A, a local choir and the Uke3A ukulele band from Mawdsley U3A, the visitors were kept well amused and although the event was due to close at 3.00, the ukulele band were still going strong at 3.30 and would have still been there well into the evening along with the audience had we not had to close the show.

Overall, it was a great success. We had nine new members join up on the day and many others took the application forms away. The ukulele band was so popular that we have started our own with the help of Mawdsley U3A so we now have 13 groups! Our local politicians now know who we are and where we are and this is already helping us develop. Some publications even printed our post event press release!

Other U3A's have told us that they have fought shy of holding an Open Day and admired our bravery. In delivering the Open Day, we found that members worked more closely together and it has greatly improved communication so, for us, it has been beneficial to Becconsall U3A. Yes, it was hard work and requires a high level of teamwork to deliver it but was it worth it... without a doubt.

### The Annual Allotment Show Shines Again



Hesketh Bank's Fifth Annual Allotment Show was held on the Poor Marsh Allotment site on Shore Road on 5th September. County Councillor Malcolm Barron opened the show and awarded the following prizes:

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Best Allotment       | John Birchall           |
| Best Exhibit         | Janet Yates (Sweet Pea) |
| Best Jam/Chutney     | Debbie Baillie          |
| Overall Best in Show | Brian Dobson            |



The Allotment Show was followed by the now traditional Organic Olympics which took place within the Community Garden. A record number of children took part in the many fun events which included the Hay Jump, the Rhubarb Relay, the 'Marrowthon' and the 'Spud and Spoon' Race.

The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed the barbecue, the tea and cakes and the stalls in the marquees. All in all it was an excellent Family Fun Day.



Residents are encouraged to use Social Media to communicate what they love about the village  
**Twitter (@loveheskethbank) : Facebook (facebook.com/loveheskethbank)**

### PARISH COUNCIL:

- Cllr. Iain Ashcroft 1 Chandlers Croft - Cllr. Maureen Baldwin 5 Rankin Avenue  
 Cllr. Diane Earles 2 Chandlers Croft – Cllr. Martin Forshaw 7 Becconsall Lane  
 Cllr. Norma Goodier 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton - Cllr. Steve Kirby 50 Shore Road  
 Cllr. Julie Lancaster 3 Chandlers Croft - Cllr. David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane  
 Cllr. Jillian McKean 12 Sidney Avenue - Cllr. Paul Sergeant 108 Moss Lane  
 Cllr. Ron Tyson Lansdowne, Shore Road

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