



# Love Hesketh Bank

The Newsletter of Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council

October 2020

It has been a challenging time for all of us in our community and, at the time of writing this, the challenges continue.

Your Parish Council has still been busy though, and we have been

helping the community in many ways. Projects that began before the lockdown have continued and along with providing some financial support, three of our Councillors have joined the excellent Hesketh Bank and Tarleton Helpers to support those in the community who need help.

I have to say that I am really pleased by the way our community has responded to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Indeed, this community has been held up as a beacon of excellence throughout the North West for what we have been, and still are, doing. Well done.

It is also a time of change for the Council. Two of our Councillors, Diane Earles and Mike Ellis are stepping down and our long-standing Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper is also retiring after many years of outstanding service. I must thank them all, both personally and on behalf of the Parish Council for their very hard and unstinting efforts. They will all be missed.

*Paul Sergeant, Chairman,  
Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council.*



## Welcome

In this issue of Love Hesketh Bank we are bringing you news about the Parish Council, Love Hesketh Bank and developments at the Community Centre. You can find out more about Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council by visiting our website at:

[www.HeskethBankCouncil.uk](http://www.HeskethBankCouncil.uk)

## Changes in the Council



Our Parish Council Clerk, Ian Cropper, is retiring in December.

Ian has been responsible for the very efficient running of the Parish Council for many years and his excellent work has led to Hesketh with Becconsall

Parish Council being recognised as a Beacon Council.

In his time, Ian has helped acquire and support open spaces and play areas in the community, added a wireless CCTV system, extended the popular allotments and redeveloped the sports facilities, along with extending our street lighting, supplying bus shelters and working to reduce speed limits. Thank you Ian and enjoy your well deserved retirement.

## Changes in the Council



**Diane Earles** has recently stepped down as a Councillor.

Diane has served on the Parish Council since 2012 and was the driving force behind our Love Hesketh Bank Campaign which was designed to celebrate what is

good about where we live.

Aptly launched on 14th February 2014 with a love songs concert in Booths by Hesketh Bank Silver Band and giveaways including bags for life, badges and car stickers, it soon grew into an ongoing celebration of our village.

Now, the Parish Council recognises individuals who have gone over and above in their love of Hesketh Bank every spring and recognises the Best Kept Front Garden, Street and Allotment every summer.

This newsletter was even renamed Love Hesketh Bank and we have Facebook and Twitter accounts to spread the word too. Award winners have also been featured in the local press, putting Hesketh Bank firmly on the local map.

Speaking about her term of office, Diane said, "I have really enjoyed serving the village, meeting residents and hopefully bringing them a smile

with some good news and recognition." She continued, "This village has a lot to offer and I'm glad I have helped shout about that."

**But Diane is not leaving the Council completely, having been successful in her application for the role of Parish Clerk Designate which she will assume from 1st December.**

**Mike Ellis** will be stepping down as a Councillor at the end of November.



Mike has been the Council's representative on the Board of Trustees of the Hesketh Bank Community Centre and has played a key role in the successful fund raising

for the new Community Centre building, raising over £416,000.00 for the project. The close working relationship that has been fostered between the Community Centre and the Parish Council has helped the project progress much faster and has created a sound base for future close co-operation.

In addition, Mike has been the editor of this newsletter and used his design skills to create the signage for the village that you see today. Mike and his wife Sue have also played a role in the development of Beconsall U3A which they will greatly miss. They are moving to Stone in Staffordshire to be nearer to their family.



## Henry Alty Way

Despite the current difficulties in working caused by the on-going Virus restrictions, Enabling and Planning Works have continued on the Council's biggest ever project – the **"Henry Alty Way"**. This project aims to deliver a fully accessible footpath and cycleway along the Westerly Bank of the River Douglas from the Southerly end of the ongoing Persimmon development in Hesketh Bank ultimately to Bank Bridge in Tarleton. Future aspirations are to be able to

have a through "Green" route to Burscough and beyond. Phase 1 of the works which should be completed by the Summer of 2021 will run from Hesketh Bank to the existing Public Open Space at River View in Tarleton with Phase 1a continuing along the river bank to connect with the existing Public Footpath at Sutton Avenue.

The whole scheme is being financed with monies received by Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and grants from other sources meaning that it will not cost local Council Tax payers a single penny.

Existing gates, stiles and fences on the route will disappear meaning that the facility will be fully accessible to all on a level surface; seating and information Boards will also be installed along the route. The actual line of the path will be on the former track bed of the West Lancashire Railway (Tarleton Lock Branch) which only survived for a few years at the beginning of the 20th century. The line primarily built for goods traffic also provided a passenger service with a Steam Railmotor running to Crossens in Southport where it connected with the Liverpool line.

## Family's green fingers recognised



*Kevin and Gwen are pictured in their winning front garden.*

Kevin and Gwen Lee are celebrating winning the Front Garden Category in the Hesketh Bank Parish Council's 'Best Kept' competition.

Gwen said they were “bowled over” to find out their front garden had won, which is the result of many years of hard work. Kevin explained, “There was just a lawn and a few trees in the garden when we bought the property 14 years ago. So our son, Stuart, who has a degree in landscape architecture set about doing something more interesting with it and we then took over the maintenance.” Stuart did gardening as a hobby at the time, installed a wide variety of plants and a pond, adding interest and colour which the judges of the Best Kept competition recognised. The couple's prize for winning was a VIP meal for two courtesy of Hesketh Bank Parish Council.



## Becconsall Lane residents celebrate award

Residents of Becconsall Lane in Hesketh Bank are celebrating being awarded the Parish Council's Best Kept Street accolade for 2020.

Several residents attended the unveiling of their new street sign in acknowledging the unique award.

They said that they were aware of the Best Kept competition and they had joked about who might win this year.

Robin Johnson was praised by all for his beautiful show of colour on his driveway, which is what caught the judges eye and the McIvers even had a Love Hesketh Bank flag in their Garden!

## Parish Council meetings

In line with current Government requirements, Parish Council meetings are currently suspended and, at the moment, it seems unlikely that we will be able to meet again in 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns then please contact the Parish Clerk on Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk or call him on: 01772 812681.

## Improving the Glen Park Drive Play Area

For some time now, the Parish Council have been working towards improving the Glen Park play area. Over the last few months, the site has been updated, new fencing put up and trees planted. A new drainage system has been installed to solve local issues. The play equipment has also been updated and improved so that we now have an asset which we are sure will prove popular with our children.



## Community Centre

After three years of hard work, the Trustees of Hesketh Bank Community Centre have raised the money needed to rebuild the hall - an amazing £416,183.00. Orders have now been placed with contractors and the new hall will reopen in the New Year.

The existing hall is expected to be demolished during October and a new sustainable drainage system will be installed in the next few weeks.

## Newsletter circulation

Our Love Hesketh Bank newsletter is posted on the Parish Council notice boards around the village and in Booths. Hard copies are available from Top Shop in Hesketh Bank. The newsletter is also available on line at the Council's Website.

If you wish to receive an email whenever the Council's Website is updated, send a blank email to Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk with the words 'Subscribe to Updates' in the Subject line.

## Your Parish Councillors

### Paul Sergeant, Chairman, 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Iain Ashcroft, 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank

Norma Goodier, 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton

David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank

Richard Plant, 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank

John Hunter, 1 Langdale Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Steve Kirby, 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

Ron Tyson, 'Lansdowne' Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

Jeff Christie, 62 Beconsall Lane, Hesketh Bank



### Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper

Providence Place, 125 Roe Lane, Southport, Lancashire PR9 7PG

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