

Hesketh Bank Best Kept Garden Competition 2022

Background

The Parish Council has, for the past several years, entered Hesketh Bank in Lancashire's Annual Best Kept Village Competition. In an effort to encourage local residents to spruce up the village an annual Best Kept Front Garden was introduced as part of the Love Hesketh Bank initiative. More recently, an additional award has been added for the Best Kept Street. Both awards have proved very popular.

How the Competition Works

Although there may be some wonderful back gardens, only gardens that can be seen from the pavement can be judged for obvious reasons. However, in addition to gardens that might be picked out by the judges, for the last two years we have invited residents to nominate gardens that they think deserve to be considered including their own. This year 10 nominations were received and were included in the long list of gardens to be considered as part of the short listing process. The long list was produced by Margaret Kirby and the short list was decided by Councillor Ron Tyson and his wife Liz. The final judging was done by Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea.

Proposed Changes to the Competition

Duncan Taylor has this year recommended a number of changes which the Best Kept Village Committee have been very happy to support, as they feel that it will enhance the annual competition by attracting more interest and greater participation, thus boosting the overall effort that will go into making our village more attractive. Instead of two awards, we have now agreed to make five awards. These are:-

Best Kept Large Garden

Best Kept Small Garden

Best Dressed Cottage/House (For those without front gardens)

Best Kept Street

Community Garden of the Year. (Currently there is only one known such garden other than the Community Garden that is part of the Hesketh Bank Allotment site, but this might encourage others to engage)

Awards

Whilst it is not appropriate to offer any kind of financial award to the Best Kept Street, the installation of a plaque beneath the Street Name has proved very popular and this will continue. For the Best Kept Large and Small Gardens and the Best Dressed Cottage a Garden Centre Voucher to the value of £25 will be awarded. The Community Garden of the Year, which involves seven local residents will be awarded a Garden Centre Voucher to the value of £50 to be spent on further enhancements to the Community Garden. A budget of £250 has been approved for this year's competition which should suffice assuming that the cost of the Best Kept Street Plaque comes in below £125 which it has been well under previously.

Winning Entries



Best Kept Large Garden:

Jumps Farm, 3 Rose Gardens
Karen and Dave McDonnell
Judge's Comments 'Love the borders at the side and front. Their use of plants is beautiful'



Best Kept Small Garden:

6 Woodlea Road. Derek Cookson
Judge's Comments: 'Bursting with mature plants, full of colour. Some striking bushes, pruned to an exceptionally high standard'.



Best Dressed Cottage:

Fisherman's Cottage, 39 School Fold
Linda and Phil Stringer
Judge's comments:
'Best Dressed Cottage looked great'.



Community Garden of the Year:

Barrow Gardens, Sydney Avenue
Judge's comments: 'Looks like a team works well in the area or one very busy person'.



Best Kept Street:

Pardoe Close (Off Chapel Lane)
Judge's comments: 'The whole area has a pristine look about it, peaceful, tidy and no one particularly letting the road down'.

Short Listed Gardens

30 Boundary Lane, May Cottage, Meadow Lane
Moss Lane, Numbers 8, 25, 64, 117, 133 and 188

Best Kept Village Committee

Councillors Steve Kirby and Ron Tyson