

# Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter

Produced by Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council  
Summer 2023

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



## Flooding In Hesketh Bank



The risk of flooding has always been a problem for Hesketh Bank along with its neighbouring parishes of Tarleton, North Meols (more commonly known as Banks) and Rufford in the low lying area of West Lancashire known as The Northern Parishes.

In 2020, in response to several incidents of severe flooding, Rufford and Holmeswood Parish Councils agreed to participate in funding a Hydrological Survey of the local area in an effort to determine what could be done about the problem.

The latest major flooding event in our area in 2020 led to losses of many millions of pounds, when over 2,500

acres of prime arable land were flooded, with destruction in excess of £2.5 million of horticulture and arable crops. In addition many households in local flooding hotspots suffered and indeed continue to suffer in periods of excessive rainfall.

Concern over the recent flooding problems and the prospect of worse to come with the advent of Climate Change if nothing is done has led to calls for a similar Hydrological Survey to be undertaken for our own area. Such a report has been commissioned by Hydrogeology Consultants, H Fraser, which has been funded jointly by Hesketh Bank, Tarleton and North Meols Parish Councils along with a substantial contribution from the members of the local farming community who led the initiative. Hesketh Bank Parish Council established a Flooding Committee which briefed the consultants about flooding issues in our area.

### The Northern Parishes Watercourse Management Review

The highly detailed and complex review has now been completed in draft form, but, until finalised, it cannot be released into the public domain. It is impossible to summarise the 62 page long report in this article, but future issues will highlight some of the more significant findings and, once completed, the report will be available for inspection by those who are interested.

### What does it mean for You?

The report contains many recommendations, but key amongst them is that, in order to maintain the free flow of drains, ditches, culverts and any form of water course, all property owners must ensure that nothing they do might lead to the blocking of watercourses.

This includes:

- The dumping of rubbish or garden waste

- The deliberate filling in of any such drains

- Ensuring that access to these waterways is always available in order to de-weed, clear and otherwise maintain them.

This is not only the correct and good neighbourly thing to do - it is also a legal requirement for any Riparian (Riparian means situated on the banks of a river or watercourse) owner of land through which a watercourse flows. Please do your best to ensure that this basic rule is observed.

### Have Your Say on Flooding

Lancashire County Council, as the official Lead Flood Authority for our area, are required to produce a Flood Risk Management Strategy. In keeping with this, they have just issued two Revised Policy Documents - one on Flood Investigations and the other on Ordinary Watercourse Regulation. Both documents have been released for public consultation with a deadline for responses of 27th August. In tandem with this they are conducting a survey for each of the documents. You are encouraged to take part in this exercise and can do this by visiting the following link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/flooding/consultation/>



# Allotments and Community Gardens - Yours to Enjoy!

The Poor Marsh Allotments on Shore Road have been in existence for more than a century and are set within a five acre site owned by the Parish Council that lies behind an attractive row of cottages opposite All Saints CE Primary School.

This large field was originally divided into twenty strips of land each 220 yards long and, because of the work involved in cultivating and maintaining what was then a rather badly drained site, it gradually became less than fully occupied.

In 2010 with finance from both Hesketh Bank Parish Council and West Lancashire Borough Council together with a grant from the Lancashire Environmental Fund new drainage and a car park were installed. With help from LCC and the Groundwork Trust the site was completely redeveloped to provide almost 60 smaller and more manageable plots encircling a central area of about an acre that was designed to provide an attractive and wildlife friendly area for the general public to enjoy - so was born the Community Garden! This award winning site is there for all to enjoy and features a fully accessible path, seating, an apiary, a pond and a wildflower garden. A beautiful Peace Garden has since been added next to the car park at the front of the site.

The Poor Marsh Allotments and Community Garden plays host each year to the Mikron Travelling Theatre Company who always lay on a wonderfully entertaining outdoor show (bring your own picnic). Every year there is also an Allotment Show and Family Fun Day when both children and grown up kids can enjoy competing in hilarious events such as the sack race, three legged race, high jump, rhubarb relay, tug of war and wheel barrow race. This year's show is on Saturday 2nd September starting at 1.00 p.m.. For the last two years an Allotment Scarecrow Competition has been held which has proved very popular and is also likely to become an annual event

If you haven't yet visited the site, do make the effort - you won't be disappointed. There are also volunteering opportunities - if you would like to join a friendly team of stalwarts who help to maintain the Community Garden (Contact Steve Kirby 07766 367550 / [stevekirby123@gmail.com](mailto:stevekirby123@gmail.com))





## Presentation of Coronation Mugs

A presentation of commemorative mugs to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III was held at the Coronation Celebration Assembly at All Saints C.E Primary School in May. The presentation of the specially commissioned mugs was made on behalf of the Parish Council by the Chairman of Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council, Paul Sergeant. Councillor Sergeant was accompanied by Councillor John Hunter. The councillors were welcomed by Associate Headteacher Rachel Ainsworth who invited Councillor Sergeant to make a short presentation to the assembly and provide an overview of the function of the Council and what it means to our residents and children.



Some of the pupils showing off their Coronation Mugs pictured with Associate Headteacher Rachel Ainsworth



Pictured Councillors Paul Sergeant and John Hunter meeting some of the pupils at their Coronation Assembly

# Don't Just Rant About It - Report It!

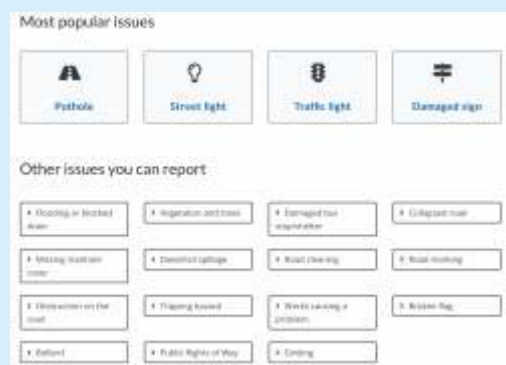
Speeding traffic, antisocial behaviour, overgrown hedges, pot holes, blocked drains, litter, dog fouling, dangerous parking - They all annoy us, but what can we do about it as well as letting off steam by having a rant?

There is no easy answer that will deliver a quick solution, but by reporting these kind of problems to the organisations that have direct responsibility for dealing with them there is a much greater likelihood that some attempt will be made to respond to the issue and the general rule here is that the more reports that are received, the greater is the likelihood that some action will be taken. The problem is knowing who to report a particular problem to

The good news is that most local public service organisations such as the Police and the County and Borough Councils have made it easier for people to make reports about problems with the various services that they are responsible for. Moreover, for many services you can track the progress of your enquiry. The bad news for people who, for whatever reason, cannot use a computer or mobile phone is that such services are generally only available 'Online' and these days reporting things by telephone and speaking to an operator is far more difficult and time consuming than doing it online.

One of the most commonly used online reporting services is LCC Highways Department's Love Clean Streets website, where you can enquire about / report the following issues:

If you are able to do so online please do visit and use the websites of the main providers of our local services. However, if you feel that you need to speak to someone, it may take a little longer and you will have to listen to several options first, but you will ultimately get through to a human being and they are usually very helpful. The most popular contact numbers you might need are:



**Lancashire County Council General Enquiries: 0300 123 6701**

**West Lancs Borough Council General Enquiries: 01695 577177**

**Lancashire Police Service ( Non Emergency ): 101**

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## Your Parish Councillors

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