



Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter

Produced by Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council
December 2023

www.heskethbankcouncil.uk



Crowds Brave the Wind and Rain for the Remembrance Service at All Saints Church

Parish Councillors Joan Witter and Norma Goodier lay wreaths at the monument to the fallen in the grounds of All Saints Church.



Best Kept Garden Competition

This report comes with an apology: The final judging was completed by Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea at the end of July. However, the last Parish Council Newsletter had to be printed and circulated by early August because of a consultation deadline from Lancashire County Council contained within the Flooding Report that was included in the last edition. This meant that the 'Best Kept' Report missed the Summer Newsletter and only appears now in the Winter edition. So, sorry there are no photos of beautiful blooms in this report. Normal service will be resumed next year!

Best Kept Small Garden

The award this year was a close run thing between last year's winner, Derek Cookson of 6 Woodlea and Number 4 Cropper Gardens, with the latter just getting the vote from Duncan. Congratulations to Jean and Steve Moakes.

Best Kept Larger Garden

Although very impressed with the gardens at 127 Chapel Road and 14 Becconsall Lane, Duncan declared the eventual winner to be May Cottage at 7 Meadow Lane. He said, 'I would have loved to sit in it and take in the plants, maybe a glass of wine to sip and appreciate the space'. The proud owners are Cynthia and David Collister, but when asked if they shared the gardening, Cynthia declared 'David is scared of worms and won't go near a spade!'

Best Dressed Cottage

This is a rather sorry tale. Duncan said that last year's winner, 39, School Fold was again beautifully presented, but he was drawn by the lovely display of pots at Elvina on Guide Road owned by Maureen and David Smith. Sadly, husband David passed away a few weeks ago without hearing of the award. Nevertheless, wife, Maureen was delighted with the news.

Best Kept Street

Belsfield Drive off Shore Road is our latest winner. The certificate was presented to resident, Marcia Worrall, at a recent lunch at the Community Cafe at Hesketh Bank Community Centre, where she is a well loved volunteer.

Best Community Space

This year's award goes to the West Lancashire Light Railway and the small team of dedicated volunteers who help to keep it looking so good.

Chair of Trustees, Mike Spall, said 'Our Gardening Team are very proud!'



Parish Councillor, Steve Kirby, presents the award to Alan Frodsham and the Gardening Team at the West Lancashire Light Railway

New Defibrillator at Shore Road Pavilion

Residents of Shore Road and the surrounding streets will be pleased to learn that a new defibrillator has been installed in their area. The defibrillator has been kindly donated by the Douglas Cardiac Trust and has been installed on an outside wall of the changing pavilion located within the Parish Council Car Park beside All Saints CE Primary School at the bottom of Shore Road Recreation Ground.

The Douglas Cardiac Trust have been providing defibrillators at or near public buildings such as schools, church halls and community centres within Hesketh Bank, Tarleton and Banks for over twenty years and have now even started providing them at most large local employers. This latest installation on Shore Road brings the total provision in our area to almost fifty potentially life saving machines. A full list of these installations is available on the Parish Council website. You can view this at heskethbankcouncil.uk.

So what if you happen to be around someone who you think may be having a heart attack? Your first action should be to contact the ambulance service. They can access a national database of all registered defibrillators and will direct you to the nearest one to where you are calling from. Every defibrillator is equipped with clear easy to follow instructions on how to use it on a casualty. However, recognising that many people would worry about dealing with a casualty in what could be a life or death situation, the Parish Council is organising training in how to use a defibrillator in order to encourage people to approach this crucial situation with greater confidence.

If sufficient people are interested in attending this free training, it will be held on Thursday 25th January 2024 at Hesketh Bank Community Centre from 9.00 until 12.00.

Please contact the Parish Clerk to register your interest by emailing Clerk@HeskethCouncil.uk



Minister Responds to Local Flooding Concerns



On the 2nd of November Hesketh Bank played host to the Rt. Hon Mark Spencer, Minister of State for the Environment along with local MP's Katherine Fletcher and Damien Moore.

This followed concerns about the flooding of 3000 acres of grade 1 farm land on 11th August 2020 which caused 2.5million pounds worth of damage to the farming community and the local economy. It is an area of land that produces some of the finest fresh produce in the United Kingdom.

The National Farmers Union arranged the visit and Westgate Farm, Guide Rd provided the venue, where Local Parish Councillors, Borough and County Councillors and some members of the public sat and listened to presentations given by local farmers, Stan Farrington and James Pope.

The presentations described in detail the historical facts about the drainage and infrastructure of Hesketh Marsh, and the physical damage caused by flooding. They identified the benefits of an IDB (Internal Drainage Board) or Water Management Board while drone footage of the 2020 flood played in the background.

Later a detailed video of 6th Oct 2023 demonstrated the regular failures of the Lancashire County Council Culvert and the overflow of the Carr Heys Watercourse at Dib Rd. Both farmers also highlighted the concerns about increased building developments within the village, creating pollution and an overcapacity of the sewage and surface water infrastructure.

It also provided the opportunity to launch the long awaited Northern Parishes Water Management Document in which this Parish Council has played a significant role. Any future planning and development of our village should now take notice of this professional hydrological report which identifies the responsibilities of each of the authorities, the riparian owners and indeed anyone who has a watercourse or ditch at the end of their garden.

The report was well received by the Minister and we understand from one of the local MPs that it will be high on his list of priorities on his return to London.

You can access a copy of the report by visiting the Parish Council website at heskethbankcouncil.uk

How Do You Like Our New Christmas Lights?

Well, you asked, and we responded. This year Hesketh Bank should be shining bigger and brighter during the Festive season. The Parish Council have replaced the previous decorative solar Christmas lights with much brighter LED lights, supplied and installed by Lighting and Illumination Technology Experience (LITE) Ltd in Burnley

The Christmas Lights were installed across the village on 21 columns to create an impressive Christmas display. The lights were turned on on the 2nd of December, helping to create a very festive atmosphere in the village.



Please Do Your Bit to Keep Our Pavements Clear

Those of us who need to push prams or wheelchairs or use mobility scooters all too frequently need to pick their way along what may be a busy stretch of road in order to get past an obstruction such as a parked car or an overgrown hedge. This clearly puts them at greater risk especially during the darker winter months. In addition, they often find it harder to avoid any dog poo left on the pavement by inconsiderate owners, which can then end up on their wheels. A particular problem for drivers occurs at road junctions when they encounter overgrown hedges and cars parked very close by. This can severely limit their ability to exit a side street safely

Please do your bit by keeping your hedge trimmed, picking up after your dog, parking considerately and, if you do need to park on the pavement, please try to park where you can leave sufficient room for a pram or mobility scooter to get by on the inside of your vehicle.



Badly placed traffic signs, as shown above, also cause a significant obstruction and discussions are ongoing with Lancashire County Council, the Highway Authority, to deal with this issue

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