



# Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter

Produced by Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council  
Summer 2024

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



## Welcome to Your New Parish Council!

*Front Row:*

*Steve Kirby, Kate Maughan, Paul Sergeant, Joan Witter*

*Back Row:*

*Tim Barnacle, John Hunter, Ian Eccles, Norma Goodier.*



## Chairman's Report 2024

The present Council has now completed its 3rd and final year in situ. The usual period is normally 4 years, but due to the pandemic there was no election in 2020 so we served for 5 years.

Several members have decided not to stand for election this year. On behalf of the council I would like to thank Norma Goodier, Ron Tyson, Louise Taylor and my most recent Vice Chairman Richard Plant for all their hard work and time they have given as members of the council over the many years of service between them.

We were also shocked by the news that David Maughan had sadly passed away just after Christmas and will be sorely missed.

We have one new member who put his name forward and I would like to welcome Ian Eccles to the council. This of course leaves us with 7 members and we can co-opt up to 4 more, although I am aware that one of the above who didn't stand for election is having a change of mind and will be putting their name forward in due course.

The Hesketh-with-Beconsall Parish Council is now split into 2 wards, Beconsall and Hesketh Bank. Myself and Tim Barnacle represent the Beconsall Ward and Ian Eccles joins Joan Witter, Kate Maughan, Steve Kirby & John Hunter to represent the Hesketh Bank Ward.

During the past 12 months The Flooding Committee has continued to push for a joint solution to the problems that have occurred in recent years. Since publishing the Hydrologist's report in November 2023 the committee met with the Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP (Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) local Borough councillors and representatives from local Parish Councils, the Environment Agency, NFU and the local farming community at Guide Road to discuss the issues we are experiencing. The Northern Parishes Watercourse Review was presented to them and a copy was taken away by the Minister for consideration who is committed to working with us to achieve an effective resolution.

The Persimmon house building site either side of the centre of the village have now extended the Henry Alty Way path through its development. Ian Cropper and his group have done a wonderful job delivering this unique facility for the residents of Hesketh Bank and Tarleton.

As Chairman I thank the clerk, Graham Crompton, and all of the Council past and present for the hard work that they undertake for the whole community within the Parish of Hesketh-with-Beconsall.

Please Note: If you are interested in filling one of the three remaining vacancies on the Parish Council contact [Clerk@heskethbankcouncil.uk](mailto:Clerk@heskethbankcouncil.uk)

## Please Respect Our Children's Playgrounds

Your Parish Council has provided and maintains three children's Playgrounds for the young ones of the village to enjoy. Most of the time they are well used and are a wonderful source of entertainment for young children and their parents to enjoy. However, sometimes they have been used by older children and sometimes they have been used for ball games, neither of which is allowed.



This can cause problems both for the younger children, who might be prevented from using the play equipment and for local residents, when for instance, a stray ball has been known to land in a nearby garden causing danger to anyone who happens to be in their garden at the time.

Please encourage your older children to respect the age restrictions and to observe the rule of No Ball Games in these playgrounds.

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## Hesketh Bank Best Kept Garden Competition 2024

### 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 three years we have invited residents to nominate gardens that they think deserve to be considered including their own. There are five categories of award as follows:

- 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



If you would like to join in the competition either by nominating your own or someone else's garden or street, please send your nominations to [stevekirby123@gmail.com](mailto:stevekirby123@gmail.com) or telephone Steve on 07766 367550 by no later than 20th July.

# More Photos Perhaps????

## Update on Flooding

At the time of writing (mid June) the recent weather has delivered a disappointingly cold and windy Summer on top of a rain sodden Spring. The rainfall we suffered in the early part of 2024 has wreaked havoc within our farming community and caused flooding problems elsewhere within the local area.



Many of you will be aware of the work on Hesketh Out marsh undertaken by the Environment Agency in conjunction with the RSPB over recent years. This involved breaching the outer bank at several points to allow the creation of several lagoons which absorb the incoming sea water at high tide times thus alleviating the threat of tidal surges further inland. This, together with the strengthening of the next embankment inland, was designed to increase the protection of people and property from the possible risk of flooding from the sea due to climate change.

However, little or no action has been taken over recent years to deal with the flooding that occurs further inland due to a combination of increasingly severe rainfall events, burgeoning development and poor maintenance of the drainage infrastructure. This has meant that water coming downstream from the South to the North of our area (i.e. in the direction from Tarleton to Hesketh Bank) is not getting away like it used to in times of severe rainfall events. One of the main reasons for this is that the remit of the Environmental Agency does not include the protection of land - not even Grade One Agricultural Land such as that of our local farmers!

As part of a study into Coastal Management Systems, a workshop was held at Hesketh Bank Community Centre on 6th June focussing on the Hesketh Out marsh. One of the main objectives of the workshop was 'To create a shared understanding of the current coastal management practices in Hesketh Bank and the ways to improve it.' This gave representatives from our farming community and the Parish Council who attended the opportunity to make the case for better protection and to highlight the recent Hydrological Survey that led to the production of the Northern Parishes Watercourse Review, which concluded with a six point plan for a more effective resolution of our flooding problems. The farming representatives were disappointed to note that Lancashire County Council, our Lead Local Flood Authority, were not represented at the workshop.

### Stop Press!

It now seems that all the representation that has been made to Lancashire County Council is having an effect: Plans have been announced to undertake drainage repairs and install new drainage at a notorious flooding site near the junction of Shore Road and Dib Road. Sadly this will result in a major diversion of traffic for at least three weeks!

	<b>SHORE ROAD, HESKETH BANK</b>
	Dates: Aug 19, 2024 - Sep 6, 2024
	Reference: GM102-S000000020725
	Restrictions: Road closure
	Works: Drainage repairs and installation of new drainage
	Operator: LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
Location: Dunkirk Farm and junc Dib Road	

# How Do You Like Our New Visitor Information Board?

Our Visitor information Board, situated by the Bus Stop outside Booths Store has been replaced. It's a very attractive board with lots of interesting information including details of a Heritage Trail, but after nine years it was beginning to look rather faded and quite a lot has happened since then. However, many of our wonderful attractions remain and so we have made some additions, a few deletions and several amendments. If you haven't already noticed it, remember to have a look next time you are shopping or just passing by.

The plan is to similarly edit the Hesketh with Beconsall Heritage Trail leaflet and you will soon be able to get copies from Booths, Tarleton Library and Hesketh Bank Community Centre as well as an electronic download from the Parish Council Website at <http://heskethbankcouncil.uk>

## *I Don't Have Visitor Info Board Photo*

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### Your Parish Councillors

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**Joan Witter**

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**Parish Clerk, Graham Crompton**

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