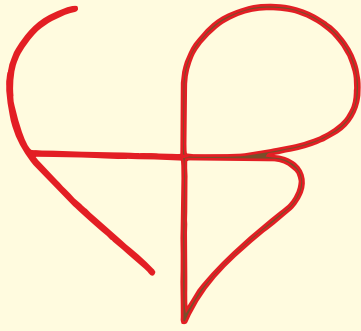




Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter

Produced by Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council
Summer 2025

www.heskethbankcouncil.uk



Exciting Improvements at Poor Marsh Allotments



There have been some exciting changes down at the Poor Marsh allotments on Shore Road, and we are delighted to share the latest developments with you. Thanks to a successful improvement project supported by Lancashire Environmental Funding, the Parish Council and funds from the site, the previously stoney paths have been resurfaced to make them smoother and far more accessible for pushchairs, wheelchairs, and mobility scooters. This upgrade means that everyone in our community can now enjoy full access around the Peace Garden and the Community Garden — two spaces that continue to bring people together in reflection, growth, and shared enjoyment.



In another step toward inclusivity, braille labels have been added to signage plaques throughout the site, helping sight-impaired children and adults to navigate the gardens independently and confidently. These thoughtful additions not only support our community but also enhance the experience for the many school groups who regularly visit.

The official opening day was a resounding success — helped along with glorious sunshine, a brilliant display of scarecrows, and, of course, some truly delicious cakes in the new marquee!

Efforts are ongoing to keep the site clean and safe. New dog poo bag dispensers have been installed and are regularly re-stocked. This small but important addition ensures that no one is left without an excuse — please, do pick up after your pets and help us keep this space beautiful for everyone.

The Parish Council would like to extend it's heartfelt thanks to Jenni Smitton and the whole allotment team for their dedication and hard work. The allotments are a much-loved part of village life, and these improvements have made them even more accessible and enjoyable.

Jenni Smitton, Chair of the Allotments, said: "We are so proud of our beautiful site and extremely grateful to a stalwart team of plot holders who maintain this little haven throughout the year. We also have a dedicated Committee who ensure our community events throughout the year are a real success."



We are really pleased to have invested over £11,000 to make our site more accessible to the whole community, with special thanks to contributions from Lancashire Environmental Fund and the Parish Council.”

The next community event is the Summer Show on 30 August 2025 at 1pm. All residents and visitors are encouraged to make the most of this wonderful community asset — it truly is a space to be proud of.

Well done to everyone involved!

No More Wrong Turns at the Community Centre

Getting to the right place in Hesketh with Beconsall just got easier, thanks to a new roadside sign funded by the Parish Council.

The sign, now in place on Station Road, points visitors clearly towards the Community Centre—helping stop the mix-up that’s been causing problems for a while. Drivers heading to the Centenary Sports Ground and the Church Hall were often turning into the Community Centre by mistake, leading to traffic congestion in the car park and surrounding roads.

This simple but effective fix should make a big difference, especially during busy times when these venues have events on.

Paul Sergeant, Chairman of Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council said “we are delighted to be able to provide some financial support for this solution. The Community Centre is a well-established hub for the local community. Traffic between here, the Centenary Sports Ground and Church Hall has increased over recent years in line with the fantastic activities these facilities provided. We are confident that this simple solution will benefit our residents and wider community.”

Bill Hall, Chairman of the Community Centre added “I am sure that I speak for my fellow Trustees and all the users of the Community Centre when I say a big THANK YOU to the Parish Council for helping to resolve the issue mentioned above. This is a perfect example of the Parish Council and the Community Centre working together for the benefit of our community”.



The Community Centre raised the issue, and the Parish Council worked with them to come up with an effective solution. The new sign is a small change that’s expected to have a big impact on day-to-day traffic and improve the experience for everyone visiting these venues. In addition, The Parish Council and the Community Centre have worked together to refresh and update the signs in the Jubilee Garden to give residents a better understanding of the fantastic facilities available at the hub of our village.

Later in the year, we intend to renew our noticeboards which have been in place for some time now and are looking a little worse for wear.





Planning Appeal Outcome: Boundary Lane Development Dismissed

On 10th December 2024, an appeal hearing took place at the West Lancashire Borough Council offices in Ormskirk concerning a proposed development of 34 bungalows for the over-50s on Boundary Lane, Hesketh Bank (Planning Ref: 2023/0730/FUL; Appeal Ref: 2024/0028/01).

The meeting, which lasted over five hours, was attended by several planning consultants, three planning officers from the Borough Council, four members of the public, and representatives including Borough & Parish Councillor Ian Eccles and Parish Councillor Kate Maughan.

The original application had been refused by planning officers and was subsequently taken to appeal by the developers. Following a thorough review, the Planning Inspector—appointed by the Secretary of State—dismissed the appeal. The decision was based primarily on significant concerns around flood risk in the area. The inspector noted that the proposed development would not offer adequate protection for future residents and that the site itself was not suitable for a major development due to its susceptibility to flooding.

The outcome is available on the West Lancashire Borough Council planning portal under the 'Appeals' tab, using the reference provided above.

This decision will come as a relief to many local residents, particularly those who have experienced flooding during heavy rainfall. The Parish Council remains committed to addressing these long-standing issues and continues to actively participate in the monthly Water Management Group meetings. We welcome this result as a positive step towards protecting our community from further flood-related risks.



Introducing Your New Parish Councillor – Samantha Townsend

The Parish Council is delighted to welcome Samantha Townsend as the newest member of Hesketh Bank Parish Council.

Samantha lives in Tarleton with her fiancé and their young son, and brings with her not only a deep love for the local area, but a wealth of professional experience and community spirit. Family is at the heart of her life – she is a proud twin and a devoted auntie who cherishes time spent with her nephew and niece.

Travel is a big passion for Samantha and her family. One of their recent adventures involved a scenic drive through France into Switzerland, staying in nine different locations and soaking in the breathtaking natural beauty along the way – an unforgettable experience they'll treasure forever.

Samantha has a creative background, having studied Interior Design at college before going on to graduate in Architectural Design & Technology. She later earned a Master's degree from The Welsh School of Architecture. Her career has taken her across the UK, from teaching architectural software at Teesside University to eventually founding her own architectural firm back home in Preston, which she has now run successfully for nine years. She also contributed her skills to the BBC's DIY SOS, supporting families in need – an experience she describes as incredibly rewarding.



Outside of work, Samantha enjoys music, baking, experimenting with new recipes, and exploring the great outdoors – whether that's a walk along the canal or a more adventurous hike in the Lake District. Locals may spot her walking through the village or browsing the chocolate aisle at Booths!

Samantha has had a long-standing interest in local community matters and is thrilled to now be part of Hesketh Bank Parish Council. She is looking forward to listening, learning, and playing an active role in supporting the needs of the local community.

We're excited to have her on board and know she'll be a great asset to the Parish Council.

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