

Shoreline Summary

Hesketh Out Marsh

Edition Number 29 ~ August 2012

Thank You – omitted from the June Newsletter

The Chairman and Councillors of Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council thank retiring Councillors The Reverend Richard Plant, Mrs Hilary Tompkins and Mr Paul Blane who retired from the Council in May this year after for their loyal and enthusiastic service.

The Parish Council would also like to thank Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea for once again donating the flowers for the troughs at the corner of Moss Lane and the patriotic hanging baskets and pots that have brightened the village throughout the summer.



Olympic Torch Relay

The Olympic Torch was carried through Croston on the 7th June and two Parish Councillors decided that they couldn't miss this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to be a small part of the Olympic Celebrations.

As all roads in and around the Croston village were to be closed from 7.00am they left Hesketh Bank at 6.00am to ensure finding a parking space and a good viewing point. They settled themselves in the middle of the village with the river and church behind them, crowds were already gathering and the excitement mounting. They waited and waited, traffic still being allowed to flow and people continuing to arrive in their droves, many patriotically dressed in red, white and blue. Eventually there was a stir, a mounting excitement, an increase in the noise, a hooting and tooting, loud cheering and much flag waving and there it was, the Olympic Flame!

It was over in a flash and they both joined a large group of people for breakfast at the Villages in Partnership hall. The level of excitement in the room was palpable. Complete strangers chatting away to one another, British reserve put to one side for a time. There could be no doubt that the country was coming together for the largest festival of sport this country has ever seen.

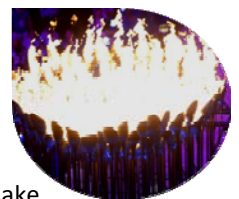
Reasons to be Cheerful

Hallelujah! A truly wonderful Olympic experience has finally lifted the veil of gloom that had descended upon us due to the double dose of economic and meteorological woe that we have been suffering all "summer"

Team GB's Olympic Athletes exceeded all expectations and were lifted by an inspirational crowd who also showed a sporting appreciation for the spirit of taking part. Remember Sarah Attar, the first Saudi Arabian female athlete ever to appear in an Olympic Stadium receiving a standing ovation as she trailed in last in the women's 800 meters race?

Equally uplifting was the friendly cheerful way in which over 70,000 volunteer Gamesmakers helped to make everything go so smoothly and make the games the huge success that they were. What makes this even more uplifting is that the 70,000 were selected from an initial volunteer force of over 240,000! (Were there any from Hesketh Bank?)

Last but not least - the sun even shone - most of the time!

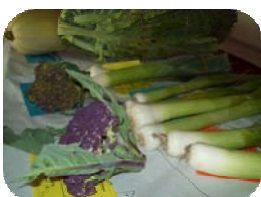


The winner of the tickets for the Southport Flower Show is Mrs P Tattersall, 64 Station Road, Hesketh Bank who correctly said that the colour of the floribunda rose 'Queen Elizabeth' is pink.



Don't Miss This Free Fun Family Event

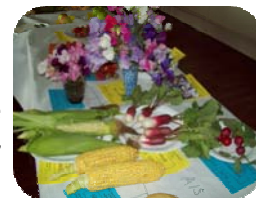
Saturday 8th September will see the Second Annual Allotments Show, which will be held on the Poor Marsh site on Shore Road, where the 60+ Allotment holders get the chance to show off their growing skills by exhibiting their preened and polished prize produce. You could call it the plant equivalent of Crufts.



Excellent weather has been ordered for the event, but just in case the show will be held under canvas with 2 marquees (courtesy of the local scouts) and several gazebos available in the unlikely event of dodgy weather.

The lovingly groomed cucumbers, leeks and tomatoes etc. will be on display from 10.00 a.m. with judging taking place between 12.00 and 2.00 p.m. followed by the award of prizes for best in show and the usual tearful acceptance speeches.

Joking apart, this is a great chance for anyone interested in growing their own to come along and talk to the experts and marvel at some of the best kept allotments in the area. We will even be holding a Best Allotment Competition that you the public can judge.



Also on display will be information showing our plans to develop the New Shoots Permaculture Community Gardens, which, if all goes well with the grant application, should see a start in November, with completion of Phase One by next spring.

Throughout the day there will be refreshments available and the usual delicious burgers and hot dogs etc. from our charcoal fired barbecue and there will also be the opportunity to purchase mouth watering home made cakes and food as well as home grown plants from the allotments.

After the prize giving the fun will really start with our very own Poor Marsh Olympiad when we aim to recapture the true sporting traditions of our Greek forefathers by staging some similarly dramatic Olympic Events such as the Shot Put, Discus and Javelin Throwing contests, Wrestling, the Chariot Race and the Marathon, but each with its own horticultural handicap e.g. The Shot Put way well be the Turnip Toss And the Chariot Race will become the Wheel Barrow Waltz. Who knows this could be the very first of the "Organic Olympics".

All comers are welcome to participate. Please look out for more details on posters in local shops and notice boards.

Antisocial Behaviour

Hesketh Bank is currently experiencing a high level of antisocial behaviour. Not only does this have nuisance value, wastes an inordinate amount of time, costs you the Council Tax Payer, a considerable sum of money from the Parish Precept but in some cases could have very serious consequences. Below are just a few of the recent instances:



Bolts on play equipment at both Glen Park Drive and Shore Road have been removed rendering equipment dangerous; the bolts are not easily removed as they are of a special security type - they haven't fallen out of their own accord. **The Glen Park incident could have resulted in the swing becoming detached from the frame with possible serious consequences**, especially as a significant area of Safety Surfacing, there to protect users if they fall, has been deliberately dug up and thrown around the play area.

Some of you may already be aware that the new Bus Shelter on Shore Road had 4 panes of glass and 2 adjacent concrete panels deliberately smashed some weeks ago.

The cost of dealing with these two instances alone has been well over £1,000, which of course is paid for by Council Tax payers through the local precept.

Station Road Play Area has also suffered from antisocial behaviour, although not to the same extremes as Glen Park Drive and Shore Road. There it is excessive littering and a total disregard for the area and Parent's with their young children who want to use the equipment. It is normal for the area to be cleaned weekly on a Monday morning, by 4pm nine times out of ten you wouldn't know that it had been!

On Monday 13th August I walked the dog at lunch time; the park had been cleared of litter and looked immaculate. By 8.30 that evening it was unrecognisable. Cans, sweet wrappers, crisp packets, polystyrene containers from local food outlets, plastic and glass bottles and chips and gravy spilt under the swings and trodden into the ground. The light wasn't good enough to take a photograph that night and by the time my husband could get round there Tuesday morning a mother with two children had painstakingly cleared away the mess and rubbish, including the chips and gravy under the swing, so that her two children could use the play equipment. This lady deserves a medal!!



In the same area the young people who make use of the play area also seem to think it 'good fun' to damage the fence that runs alongside the embankment. Wooden rails have been removed making the fence, the latest one within the last two days.



The Ball Court at the Village Community Centre is also subjected to antisocial behaviour and vandalism – excessive litter on the court, gravel thrown across the court rendering it dangerous and unusable, climbing over the gates, wall and 5m fence to gain access to the court when it is locked because of planning regulations and attempting to burn the cable that feeds the lighting.

Allowing your dog to foul the footpath or any public open space is an offence punishable by a fixed penalty fine and is another example of antisocial behaviour which remains a big problem in the Village. Please be a responsible dog owner and clean up after it!

As always it is a relatively small number of people who cause the problems. In an effort to bring the problems under control and perhaps win the 'Best Kept Village' competition the Parish Council would appreciate you being vigilant and reporting any incidence of antisocial behaviour, in whatever form, to the Parish Clerk, a Councillor or the Police through the PACT meeting – the next one is to be held at Booths Café, 1.00pm on Thursday 6th September.



PARISH COUNCIL:

Cllr. Iain Ashcroft 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Maureen Baldwin 5 Rankin Avenue, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Diane Earles 2 Chandlers Croft Hesketh Bank – Cllr. Martin Forshaw 7 Becconsall Lane, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Norma Goodier 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton - Cllr. Steve Kirby 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Julie Lancaster 3 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Jillian McKean 12 Sidney Avenue, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Paul Sergeant 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank
Cllr. Ron Tyson Lansdowne, Shore Road Hesketh Bank

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