

Best Kept Village

Belated congratulations are due to both Tarleton, for scooping the Best Kept Village Award in the 'Large Sized Village Category', and Mere Brow for the 'Most Improved Small Village Category'. Hesketh Bank's entry was not successful this year, but our thanks go to Councillors Norma Goodier and Christine Farrington for all their efforts and thanks once again to Alty's and Arden Lea Nurseries for supplying the hanging baskets which adorned the shops of Hesketh Bank throughout the summer.

A Sub Committee has been set up to prepare our bid for next year's entry and they would welcome your views on how we might do better next year.

The Sub Committee have to decide which categories of the competition to enter. It seems that as well as the overall prize for the Best Kept Village, there are also awards for the best examples of particular village features e.g. best Church, Pub, Village Hall, School, etc. So it would be useful to know which aspects of Hesketh Bank the local people take a pride in i.e. our "Village Treasures".

On the opposite side of the coin, we want to know what you see as the "Grot Spots" of Hesketh Bank, so that we can try to do something about getting rid of them.

We think the latter would make an interesting competition and being nominated for a Grot Spot award just might help to get rid of some of the "blots on our landscape". So let us have your entries by filling in the tear-off slip below.

You can also send your entries and any other (polite) suggestions or comments to the Parish Council Chairman, Rev Richard Plant (tel 01772 814798).

Happy New Year

As you will have received this 'Shoreline Summary' between Christmas and New Year we trust you have all enjoyed the festive period and may we take this opportunity to wish all residents of Hesketh Bank a happy, healthy and peaceful 2006.



Village Grot Spot Competition

My nomination for the Hesketh Bank Village Grot Spot is:

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.....

Please hand in your entry to Top Shop Newsagents or Station Road Spar

Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council Newsletter

Shoreline Summary

Issue 3 December 2005

Welcome to Issue No 3 of your Parish Council Newsletter. We hope you like the new title as suggested by our competition winner, Mr A Clough, who receives our congratulations and a voucher for £20. Many thanks to all who took part. Before anything else a quick apology. This should have been Issue No 4, in line with our commitment to produce quarterly newsletters. However, the planned September issue fell victim to the usual suspects....time and other commitments, but we will do our best to get back on track next year.

Why Not Check Out Our New Website?

As promised in the last newsletter we now have our very own Parish Council Website. Since its launch in July we have had well over a thousand unique visitors to the site and hope to get many more. For anyone who doesn't have access to a computer or lacks the confidence to try their hand at using one, the staff at Tarleton Library will be happy to help you use one of theirs for free.

The website is updated twice a week, so you can get all the latest happenings in the village, but sadly no gossip. However, if you want to keep track of all the latest planning applications and approvals/rejections or find out about any development proposals and spending plans of the Parish Council, then www.HwBPC.org.uk is the place to go.

As well as giving details of all the Parish Councillors, and the agenda and minutes of our monthly meetings, the website also has facilities to view and download any legislation and reports affecting our area. There are also pages of information from other authorities and organisations that are responsible for providing public services, .e.g. Lancashire County Council, West Lancs. District Council, the local Primary Care Trust etc.

If you want to bend someone's ear or seek help with an issue that's important to you, there is an excellent link on the home page. Just click on Service Providers and on the next screen that appears you will be invited to "click here" to contact your elected representative. You are then connected to a really helpful website called Write to Them. com, which guides you through who is responsible for what and gives easy to follow guidance and help on how to get support for your "cause".

Finally, we've set aside an area for local Groups and Societies and the opportunity for yours to be featured – just let us know who you are and when you meet and don't forget to send your feedback, views and suggestions via the facility on the Welcome Page.

Our thanks are due to the Clerk, Ian Cropper for setting up the Website and maintaining it.

Clean Bill of Health from Auditors

The Parish Council has received a clean bill of health following the audit of their accounts and procedures, for the financial year to March 2005, by Southampton firm, "BDO Stoy Hayward".

The Company noted that *"...no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met"*.

Chairman, Cllr. Richard Plant commented that the present Council, elected in 2004, and the Clerk, had worked hard to rectify the numerous concerns that had been highlighted in the audit for the previous year.

"Our systems and controls are now in order, which means we can all concentrate on our duties and responsibilities as local councillors, and put the somewhat turbulent past behind us" said Cllr. Plant.

Copies of the Annual Return and Auditor's Report can be viewed on the Council's WebSite along with the Council's current financial plans.

Developments in Hesketh Bank

~ A Progress Report ~

Alty's Site

The proposed mixed development, which includes plans to build a large number of houses, was formally rejected by West Lancs. D.C. in July. The outline proposal for the development of a Supermarket by EH Booth has still not been followed up by the submission of a detailed application for planning permission.

However, as reported in the last issue, the site is now in their ownership and they have been granted a licence to sell liquor. When asked about a start date for building work all that they will say is that work on the Hesketh Bank site will only start when the current project is finished.

Shore Road Play Area

Delays caused by vandalism and the onset of the winter weather have resulted in the redevelopment of the Shore Road Play Area, at a cost in the region of £33,000, coming to a temporary halt. Completion will now have to await a window of benign weather.

Shore Road Lighting Scheme

The proposal to improve the safety of Shore Road has been delayed. Although we have the agreement of North Meols Parish Council in seeking a 50 mile an hour speed limit, there are ongoing legal wrangles in relation to the proposed installation of lighting. If all is resolved satisfactorily work will commence early next year.

Flood Control Project

In a submission they call The Hesketh Out-Marsh Realignment Scheme, the Environment Agency and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have put forward plans for consultation which are designed to provide greater flood protection, whilst at the same time preserving and enhancing the area for the bird population and for members of the public who like to visit the area.

The plan is to excavate existing creeks to a greater depth and to create eight salt water lagoons by excavating areas of the out-marsh and then making four breaches in the outer flood wall. This will allow the excavated areas to flood at high tide, thus creating the lagoons. Some of the spoil from the excavated areas will be used to upgrade the inner flood wall to a greater height, the end result being a greater level of flood protection – a welcome measure in our low lying area at a time of Global Warming.

There will be some disruption to public footpaths, but the end result will be an improvement in footpath provision. Work is due to start in the Spring of 2007.

Skate Board Park on the Horizon?

Younger readers (we wish) might be pleased to learn that a small Sub Committee of the Parish Council has been formed to investigate the possibility of providing a Skate Board Park in the village.

We would not like to raise false hopes, so it's important to say at this point that there are no definite plans at the moment – only a commitment to support the idea. It seems that would be Skate Boarders have been told not to skate on the pavements and, not surprisingly they are asking where they can practise their "art".

A petition was presented to the Sub Committee at its last meeting and local youths Tom Calperthwaite and Ian Grimsley turned up to hear the item discussed.

Fourteen year old Tom said, *"I feel if we get a Skate Park that's well looked after it will be a benefit to the community, particularly young people"*.

Keeping You Informed

As well as reading the 'Shoreline Summary' you can keep abreast of what's going on within the Parish Council in the following ways:

Notice Boards

Details of any important events affecting the Parish are posted on the official Notice Boards. For anyone who doesn't already know these are to be found:

- At the junction of Moss Lane and Station Road
- On Shore Road at the Recreational Field Car Park
- At Hundred End at the junction of Hundred End Lane and Boundary Lane
- On the SPAR Shop Car Park at the Junction of Chapel Road and Station Road