

HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

# Shoreline Summary

Hesketh Out Marsh

Edition Number 30 December 2012



## The Parish Council September 2012

Back Row: Councillors: Stephen Kirby  
Diane Earles; David Maughan; Martin Forshaw  
Jillian Mckean; Maureen Baldwin; Ron Tyson

Front Row: Councillor: Norma Goodier  
Parish Clerk: Ian Cropper; Chairman: Paul Sergeant  
Vice Chairman: Iain Ashcroft; Julie Lancaster

Members of the Council wish you all a  
'Happy Christmas and New Year'



## The Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition

The Parish Council are both proud and delighted that the Village has been awarded a "Highly Commended Certificate" in the Large Class of the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition, coming 4<sup>th</sup> out of 23 entries.

The Parish Council, once again says an enormous 'thank you' to Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea Nurseries for his patriotic hanging baskets and the flower filled troughs on the corner of Moss Lane during the summer and his colourful Christmas Wreathes that currently adorn the lamp-posts giving the village a festive air. The Council also thanks **you** for your efforts in helping to achieve the award.

## End of an era

Many Hesketh Bank residents, especially those living at the north end of the village, were very sorry to learn that the Post Office on Shore Road was closing on 23<sup>rd</sup> November following the decision of its hugely popular Sub Post Master, John Baxendale, to give up the post after almost 24 years of dedicated service to the local community.

John and his wife, Wendy came to Hesketh Bank from Ormskirk in January 1989 after John had spent 35 years in the printing industry and he is now looking forward to a well earned retirement after working for almost 60 years.

John said that he has thoroughly enjoyed his time here and has met many interesting characters in the course of his work, but the thing he will miss most is the children pouring into his shop after school.

The children of All Saints School will certainly miss him too. They had a special Mufti Day collection and on 30<sup>th</sup> November they presented John and Wendy with flowers and a beautiful engraved decanter and glasses to mark his retirement.

The following day John was treated to a party at Our Lady's Catholic Church Hall in Tarleton where almost 100 residents joined Wendy and daughters Jane and Clare in springing a surprise on John, who thought he was on his way to enjoy a quiet celebratory meal with Wendy and half a dozen neighbours.



A final tribute will be paid to John on 20<sup>th</sup> December when the Mayor of West Lancashire will present him, along with a select few other nominees, with a Jubilee Medallion for outstanding service to the community.

John and Wendy would like to thank everyone who has supported and helped them over the years. They say it has been a very rewarding time and they would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.



### **Flooding**

Following some flooding in the summer, remedial work has been carried out by United Utilities to clear blocked drains, which does seem to have made a difference but as the weather has been changeable at best these past few weeks, once again we have seen some surface flooding in the village. I guess we must count ourselves lucky that we have not been affected as other part of the UK, but still just the threat of property being damaged by floods is a concern not to be taken lightly.

The Parish Council has pulled together the following web links and telephone numbers for residents to find expert advice on protecting their homes in case of floods and other emergencies, which can also be found on the Parish Council website under Service Providers.

**Environment Agency** <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/> or ring **Floodline:** 0845 988 1188 (24 hour service) or Type talk 0845 602 6340

### **Environment Agency Householders and Small Businesses - PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY FOR FLOODING**

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO1009BRDL-E-E.pdf>

**Lancashire Resilience Forum** <http://www.lancsresilience.org.uk> or by post at By Post: LRF Secretary, Lancashire Constabulary, Civil Contingency Unit, Lancaster Building, PO BOX 77, Preston, PR4 5SB

**West Lancashire Borough Council - COPING WITH EMERGENCIES** Dave Tilleray, Assistant Director Community Services

Tel: 01695 577177, Email: [david.tilleray@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:david.tilleray@westlancs.gov.uk)

If you have found other useful links then please let us know and we will add to the list.

### **Consumer Alerts**

**Telephone Scams** - There have many reports of consumers who have been contacted by firms offering to get their council tax reduced. Trading Standards advice is if you choose to employ someone to handle a council tax appeal for you, be aware that you are likely to be charged a fee for any work carried out, even if this only involves giving advice and information. Please make sure you fully understand the terms of any contract before you sign it.

For more information about what to do if you think your council tax band may be wrong visit the Valuation Office Agency website [www.vo.gov.uk](http://www.vo.gov.uk) or speak to your local valuation office agency. There is no charge for this service.

- In a telephone scam a lady was contacted by someone who said they were from a government department and that there was a £3000 refund for bank charges. The caller asked the lady to pay an administration fee by Ukash voucher bought from a local shop. Ukash vouchers should be treated as cash. For further advice about Ukash vouchers visit [www.ukash.com](http://www.ukash.com)

**Email Scams** - There have been a number of emails allegedly from banks such as Barclays, NatWest and Tesco Bank claiming that the recipient's on-line account has been suspended and asking them to confirm personal information to re-activate the account. Trading Standards advice is never reply to these emails. Your bank will never ask you for information about your bank account in this way.

- Another email scam offered £800,000 compensation to anyone who had been the victim of hurricanes, floods or earthquakes. Allegedly the compensation was available to anyone, either private individuals or businesses who may have lost money as a result of such natural disasters. Please do not respond to this email.

**Doorstep Incidences** - There have been a number of reports this month of consumers being cold called by traders offering to apply coatings to roofs or windows and claiming there is a government energy efficiency grant for this work. For more information about government grants and energy- saving improvements to your home visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

- In another cold caller incident, consumers were sold "Italian leather" jackets which were later found to be imitation leather. The trader charged one couple £580 and another couple £400. The trader was very "pushy" even driving the consumer to the bank to withdraw the money.

**Trading Standards Advice is never deal with anyone who cold calls by phone or in person.** To report scams or doorstep crime incidents contact the Trading Standards Service via the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **08454 04 05 06**

**New Shoots Community Garden Coming Soon.** Now that the project to transform the old Poor Marsh Allotment Site is complete the Parish Council is eager to build on this success by developing New Shoots - the area it has set aside for anyone in the wider community who may not specifically wish to manage their own allotment, but who might want get involved and learn more about growing fruit and vegetables and gain some of the traditional skills associated with sustainable agriculture.



Permaculture growing promotes self-maintained agricultural systems, modelled on natural ecosystems. One example of Permaculture in action is the forest garden concept, where natural woodland is mimicked to provide a food crop. In forest gardens, fruit and nut trees provide the woodland canopy; soft fruit bushes the shrub layer, and smaller plants such as Rhubarb, strawberries, medicinal plants and herbs, the ground layer.

A generous area of land has been reserved for projects that will meet this need and we are delighted to announce that funding to complete Phase One of the work has been provided with a grant from the 'Lancashire Environmental Fund' with match funding from the Parish Council. A number of experienced and enthusiastic allotment holders have also volunteered to get involved and pass on their skills and knowledge.

The proposals for Phase One which is due to run from January to April/May 2013 will include the following features:



**Edible Woodland Walkway / Forest Garden:** Construction of a fully accessible path around the perimeter of the New Shoots site. The forest garden will be planted with a variety of fruit trees, bushes and other edible plants. Spring flowers will be used to make the area more attractive to both people and pollinating insects.

**Wild Life Pond:** Creation of a large pond area with suitable planting to encourage the establishment of a vibrant freshwater ecosystem that will become a magnet for local wildlife.

**Bee Keeping Area:** Development of an area for the relocation of an existing bee hive, which is currently housed on one of the allotments and provision of further hives to support the development of a bee colony.

**Wild Flower Area:** Preparation and planting of an area of traditional native wild flowers to provide an attractive setting, a source of food for the bees and an ideal habitat for a rich diversity of other wildlife

**Wetland Area:** Creation of a wetland area in a naturally boggy part of the site which will be appropriately planted to attract the kind of insect and bird life that thrives in these conditions.

**Poly Tunnel:** Installation of a 30' x 18' Poly Tunnel with rainwater collection/storage and electrical supply to provide a versatile large warm, dry area which will be suitable for a variety of purposes in addition to the more obvious horticultural uses.

**Raised Beds:** Construction of raised, well spaced beds of differing heights, to accommodate the differing physical needs of people, set on a fully accessible hard surfaced floor.

**Community Involvement:** Both the Parish Council and the New Shoots Management Committee are keen to encourage members of the local community to use the new facilities which should be available for them to enjoy from next spring. We hope that many people will come to see the Community Garden as a pleasant setting in which to enjoy a walk or simply to sit and relax in what should soon become a highly attractive and interesting area of green space. We also intend to designate a part of the site as an "events area" where community events will be held in future, just as some already have been in the recent past (Two official opening ceremonies, several barbeques, an annual allotment prize competition and an Organic Olympics Family Fun Day to date) One future event already booked and scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> June next year is an open air play by the Mikron Travelling Theatre Company called "Beyond The Veil"

As well as those who wish purely to enjoy a bit of leisure time at the Community Garden, New Shoots hopes to attract a good number of people who would like to get involved in the Community Food Growing initiative by joining in the cultivation of the Poly Tunnel and the Raised Bed Area.

We also wish to sign up as many volunteers as we can to help with the initial planting work to be done around the path, pond, wetland and wild flower areas. Help with this has already been promised by the local scouts and youth club. However, in time there will be significant on going maintenance work such as tree and bush pruning, leaf clearing, weeding etc. In future years fruit picking opportunities will reward volunteers for their valued assistance. The New Shoots project will help to build, on the social interaction generated by the new allotments, increasing the sense of community within the local area.



Looking further ahead, subject to planning considerations, there is an intention in the longer term to locate a building on the site. This would enable the Poly Tunnel to be more fully utilised for its intended horticultural purposes and would allow a more purpose made facility to provide information, demonstration, instruction and general awareness across a range of themes and techniques that promote sustainable ways of growing in line with the ethics and principles of Permaculture. We intend this building to be as environmentally friendly as we can make it, using wherever possible, recyclable materials and low carbon technology. Depending on funding sources, there may well be considerable scope/need for volunteer effort in this project.

The Parish Council is grateful for the work of the many enthusiastic volunteers at New Shoots Permaculture Association. We would also like to thank Steve Edwards from Lancashire County Council, who has provided considerable help and expertise in taking the project forward

### **20 mph Speed Limits 'From the horses mouth'**

When enforcing speed limits we comply with the national ACPO threshold standards and therefore action will be taken against any driver recording speed of 10% plus 3 mph and above the limit. Therefore in 20 mph limits this will mean that speeds of 25 mph and above will result in action.

At this current time there is no national course as an alternative to prosecution therefore the motorist will be given the option of paying a fine of £60 and receiving 3 penalty points on their driving licence or they can opt for the case to be dealt with in the Magistrates Court. It is due to this point that we are keen to ensure that 20 mph limits are appropriately enforced and that it is obvious to the road user that the speed limit is 20mph and there are added risks of driving at higher speeds. Signage and additional measures such as Speed Indicator Devices are measures that can support this.

**Chief Inspector Debbie Howard**  
Strategic Roads Policing

### **Winter Safety Newsletter for Parish Councils from Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service.**

"With the winter fast approaching, many of us are spending more time indoors, tucked away from the cold and trying to keep our homes warm and cosy. Winter brings along many risks and often leads to an increase in accidental fires. We regularly see house fires increase, caused by the unsafe heating of the home, open fires, blocked chimneys, candles and overloaded electrical sockets caused by extra appliances & decorations we use during the winter period.

Lancashire Fire & Rescue can provide information and advice to help keep you and your home safe this winter. Our FREE home fire safety check service offers help and advice you may need to prevent fires from occurring, but also life saving information of what to do if a fire occurs. We can also fit 10 year smoke alarms free of charge if required.

Please also take the time this winter to think of the safety of your neighbours, particularly the elderly who may not be able to get out of the house in poor weather or who are using unsafe methods to heat their homes. Are they safe? Do they have smoke alarms?

If not we can help!

To book your free home fire safety check call us free on 0800 1691125 quoting code SA039. All visits are completed by fire service personnel who will show ID cards on arrival."

### **Advice for Pedestrians and Motorists from Lancashire County Council**

**Advice for pedestrians:** In severe weather conditions, we will continue to treat priority footways serving main shopping and employment areas, hospitals and those that provide access to public transport services. The remaining footways and cycle ways will be prioritised and treated when resources are available. In icy and snowy weather consider if your journey is necessary and wear appropriate footwear with good grip.

**Things that might surprise you...** • Salt will not melt snow - snow must be cleared before salting takes place.

• It can take up to four hours for our gritters to salt a route. • When frost is forecast on a wet night, we will only start salting after the rain to avoid the salt being washed away. • Salt does not immediately melt ice on the roads. It's the movement of the salt around the road by the traffic which helps to clear the ice.

**Winter driving advice:** Before you set off: • check the local weather forecast and traffic reports • plan your route and leave extra travelling time • check your car battery, lights, wipers and coolant level • make sure your tyres have the correct pressure and at least 3mm of tread • avoid travelling in severe weather conditions unless your journey is essential.

**Tips for safer winter driving....** • keep a safe stopping distance at all times. It can take ten times longer to stop in ice and snow • avoid harsh braking and sudden acceleration; this could lead to skidding • if visibility is poor, put on dipped headlights or rear fog lights • drive in the highest gear possible in icy conditions to avoid wheel spin • do not drive in flooded areas or places where ice could be covering water. We recommend that you keep the following in your vehicle: • screen scraper and de-icer • torch • shovel • flask of hot drink/food • rug/blanket and warm clothing • mobile phone, only use it when legal and safe to do so.

Despite our efforts winter weather can still make the roads treacherous. Never assume a road has been treated.

Last but by no means least a belated congratulations to Mrs P Tattersall, 64 Station Road, Hesketh Bank who won the Tickets for the Southport Flower Show way back in August



*A Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2013 from the Parish Council*



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



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