

HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL PARISH COUNCIL

# Shoreline Summary

Hesketh Out Marsh

Edition 34 December 2013

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW SERIES OF "MEET YOUR COUNCIL"

Parish Councils, despite their name, are often confused with Parochial Church Councils, but whilst more often than not they share the same geographical boundaries, that is where the similarity ends. Parish Councils are the first tier of local government and are established by statute first coming into existence in 1894 although the bulk of their authority stems from the 1972 Local Government Act.

**"Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council"**, as it is properly known, is one of the small number of elite Councils that have achieved the Government sponsored status of **"Quality Council"** and been granted the legal **"Power of Competence"** which recognises the fact that the Council works within prescribed practices and protocols and makes itself fully accountable including the employment of a professionally qualified Clerk and Finance Officer.

Over the coming months, we'll be bringing you snapshots of the various individuals that make up the Council starting with our **Chairman Paul Sergeant**.

Paul, as many of you will know, has been a leading light on the Council and the local sporting scene for many years; he first joined the Council in 1996 and is now Chairman for a second time since May 2012. At 56 years old he has lived in Hesketh Bank all his life and has seen the village triple in size. Paul is married with six children and one grandchild.

Originally educated at Preston Catholic College, he subsequently achieved a BA Honours degree having studied Graphic Design at Preston Polytechnic. After an initial couple of years, he opened his own Print and Copy Shop in Lancaster keeping him busy for the next twenty one years. Still involved with the printing industry, Paul now works at the prestigious Kirkham Grammar School as Head of Reprographics.

Throughout his life, he has been a lover of most sports and began playing for Hesketh Bank AFC at the age of fourteen. Presently however, his enthusiasm is encapsulated as Chairman and General Secretary looking after several teams and giving support to the new younger generation of today. Paul also played cricket for Hesketh Bank from the age of eleven before moving on to play in the Northern League at Leyland and Leyland DAF.



"The Village has in the last few years gone through a metamorphosis." commented Paul, "Exciting new developments including the fabulous Sports Centre, and Booths Supermarket along with the upgrading of the Village Centre has helped to transform the Village and give us modern day services. The Parish Council has worked hard with these and other developers and partners along with many initiatives of its own to improve and develop the village."

**Our Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper** was born in Southport as a true Sandgrounder back in 1944. He was heavily involved in the then active movement of Youth Clubs and became Chairman of Southport Youth Council in 1960. Educated at King George V Grammar School, he commenced work with the then GPO as a Telephone Engineer in 1962 achieving an HND in Electronics & Data Transmission at what is now the University of Central Lancashire. During the late 60's he actually used to maintain the old automatic telephone exchange in Hesketh Bank where Booths now stands. After becoming totally disillusioned with the Civil Service, he left to join the private commercial sector in retailing where he studied to qualify in both Accountancy and Surveying, ultimately being appointed Property and Legal Director of a national company; the Institute of Directors honoured him with a Fellowship in 1986. Moving on again, he founded a



Business and Financial Services Company in Chorley offering 'Back Office' functions to both large and small business alike. It was at this time that with his wife and daughter, he spent many happy years as a resident of Bretherton being actively involved in the village and Church both as Choir-Master and an event's organiser. With his wife and other hard workers, he headed up the numerous celebrations marking the 150 year history of Bretherton Church with the now famous Parish Party for over 450 villagers (*population 620*); the police had to make special arrangements as vast numbers of houses in the village were empty all evening!

Having taken early retirement, Ian took up the post of Parish Clerk in 2003 following an unfortunate period for the Council which saw stand up rows in meetings, investigations by the Auditors, Councillors being referred to the Standards Board and the previous Clerk being dismissed. Ian commented *"I felt as though I had been dropped into a cauldron of boiling oil. Slowly and steadily however I have been able to work with many dedicated Councillors and we are now seen as one of the most progressive Parishes in Lancashire delivering real benefits to the residents.*

Ian's professional skills have proved very useful in the delivery of many of the Council's projects as well as the day to day management of the Council.

In the February edition we will feature our Vice-Chairman and Borough Mayor, **Iain Ashcroft** and Councillor **Maureen Baldwin**

### BECCONSALL MEMORY PRESERVED

When the first section of the West Lancashire railway opened on the 19th of February 1872 the train travelled from Hesketh Park in Southport, land owned by the Fleetwood-Hesketh family, to Hesketh Bank and land owned by the Fermor-Hesketh family. After looking around Alty's Brickworks, the party, including Sir Thomas Henry Fermor Hesketh refreshed themselves at the Becconsall Hotel which had been built some years before by his father, Sir Thomas George Fermor Hesketh 5th Baronet.

Sir Thomas George had married Lady Arabella Fermor in 1846 and in due course assumed by royal licence the surname of Fermor in addition to Hesketh. The Becconsall Hotel was thus embellished above the entrance door with a fan stone engraved with his initials and the wheat sheaf of the Heskeths and the Griffin of the Fermors.



At a special ceremony in October, Our Mayor and Parish Councillor Iain Ashcroft with his wife Beverly were on hand to congratulate Rowland Homes for incorporating the Becconsall Fan Stone as a feature at the entrance to Becconsall Gardens. The stone had been carefully preserved for many tens of years at a secret location in the village!

### HESKETH BANK VILLAGE SHOW

The organisers of the Hesketh Bank Village Show would like to thank everyone who came to support the local event now in its 6th year and continuing to grow. Thank You for all the hard work that the team have put into the show, this years was one of the best .



The amount raised was £3082 which is shared out £500 to Douglas cardiac trust; £500 to Derian House Children's Hospice; £1000 to All Saints Church and £1082 to Hesketh Bank Village Show to stage next year's popular event.

Once again a big thank-you for coming along and see you next year.  
*Barry and the Team*

## NEW SHOOTS WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council's vision to develop a delightful area of green space for the local community to enjoy has been recognised within less than a year since the New Shoots Permaculture Community Garden was created.

Based originally on a design concept created by Groundwork North West, a fully accessible path has been created around the central community space with a wildflower meadow, forest garden, fruit trees, wildlife pond, apiary, growing beds, poly-tunnel and an allotment area have been developed for the whole community to enjoy and learn about Permaculture with the emphasis on growing food organically.



Inspired by the Offshoots Permaculture Garden in Burnley, the Parish Council saw the benefit of creating a Permaculture area on the existing Poor Marsh Allotment Site on Shore Road and so they provided match funding to a grant for the project from the Lancashire Environmental fund (LEF). Work began last January and the Parish Council were delighted to learn recently that it had been short listed for an award at the Lancashire Environmental Fund's annual event when twelve projects out of more than sixty that have received grant funding from LEF in 2013 would be showcased.



Councillor Maureen Baldwin, Chairman of the Poor Marsh Committee which oversees the management of the Allotments and New Shoots site, attended the ceremony for the awards, which were in three categories and, despite some very stiff competition, saw the "New Shoots Permaculture Garden" carry off the Lancashire Environmental Fund 2013 "Best Practice Award" for Open Spaces and Recreation.

Commenting on the success, Councillor Baldwin said, "I am delighted that the New Shoots Permaculture Garden has won such a prestigious award and, whilst the Parish Council can take credit for the initial decision to go ahead with the project, it would never have got off the ground without all the hard work that the New Shoots Permaculture Association has put in. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to Steve Edwards of Lancashire County Council's Environment Directorate. Without the help and guidance we received from him, the LEF grant and match funding from the Parish Council, New Shoots would have struggled to break out and be so successful."



Rob Yates, Chairman of the Permaculture Association said, "Lots of hard work has been put in by a small number of dedicated volunteers to get to this stage. We now have a fantastic community facility for local people to enjoy. Anyone who wants to get involved will be made most welcome. We will be having Volunteer Days on the third Sunday of the month starting next January"

Pictured above is a beautiful individual hand painted glass plaque awarded to the Association.

## WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY COVENANT



The West Lancashire Community Covenant was officially signed by the Parish Clerk, on behalf of our Council, in the Mayor's Parlour on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. The covenant encourages local communities to support veterans and people in the armed forces.

It calls on the civilian community to support the service community in their area and promote understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.

Councillor Iain Ashcroft, the Mayor of West Lancashire, said: "The people of West Lancashire and the Borough Council are proud of our links with the armed forces. The Council awarded the Freedom of the Borough to the Duke

of Lancaster's Regiment at a formal ceremony in 2011 and the crowds at that event and recent Remembrance Sunday Service prove local people have the highest regard for our servicemen and servicewomen.

The purpose of the covenant is to reinforce the principles of the government's pledge which:

- Recognises the unique nature of service
- Ensures people are not disadvantaged as a result of service in the armed forces, and
- Allows special treatment where justified, such as in the case of injured personnel

A working group is to be set up, which local organisations will be encouraged to join, to formulate an action plan which may include bids to the government's Community Covenant Grant Scheme. This scheme aims to support projects which provide benefits to both the armed forces and civilian communities at a local level.

### EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

At the October Parish Council Meeting a presentation was given by the Head of Emergency Planning and an Emergency Planning Officer from Lancashire County Council which proved to be extremely informative and useful to the Emergency Planning Committee in assessing any possible emergency situations.

The situations that have been to the forefront of our minds recently have been the incidences of road flooding that have occurred in the past year or two.

Hesketh Bank is protected from sea inundation by earth embankments, soon to be enhanced with a major redevelopment of the Hesketh Out-marsh East. The few properties at risk are shown on a map and you can register for early flood warnings from The Environment Agency at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/>. The Environment Agency also offers good advice on protecting your property from water incursion if you are concerned about being affected by flooding.



### THANK YOU

I am sure that you would all like to join the Parish Council in saying a huge **THANK YOU** to Arden Lea for once again brightening the Village with their beautiful hanging baskets during the summer and their festive decorations celebrating Christmas.



The Parish Council join together to wish you all a very  
**Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2014**

### Love Hesketh Bank

The Parish Council wants 2014 to be the year we really take pride in our village. Officially launching on Valentine's Day, Friday 14th February, the whole year will play host to a Love Hesketh Bank campaign. "We want to celebrate the great place we live in and encourage residents young and old to appreciate their surroundings," said Council Chairman, Paul Sergeant. He added "And what better way is there than to 'Love Hesketh Bank'?"

Focussing on positives the Love Hesketh Bank campaign will ask residents to share what they like about the village and ask everyone to care for their surroundings a bit better. There will be a Facebook page ([facebook.com/loveheskethbank](https://facebook.com/loveheskethbank)) and Twitter account (@loveheskethbank) plus activities through the year for all to enjoy. Look out for the special Valentine's edition of Shoreline too, which will be dedicated to Love Hesketh Bank and provide further information on how you can get involved.

### 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 Fernor 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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