

Shoreline Summary

Hesketh Out Marsh

Edition Number 26 ~ February 2012

Christmas and New Year Celebrations now seem long past, however the Parish Council hope that you had an enjoyable festive season and send you all good wishes for 2012.

The Parish Council installed illuminated Christmas decorations on the old style lamp posts in the village and on the bridge. Together with the Christmas wreaths, once again generously donated by Duncan Taylor of Arden Lea, and the brightly lit Christmas trees mounted above the shops the village looked very festive.



The Parish Council thank Duncan for the wreaths, which stayed attached to the lamp posts during the very high winds leading up to Christmas and also thank him for recently replanting the containers on the corner of Moss Lane with spring flowering bulbs, which I am sure, in time, will look a 'picture'.

SPORTS CHANGING FACILITIES

When the old wooden changing hut on the Shore Road Car-Park finally gave up the ghost some seven years ago, the Football Club acquired as a 'temporary' measure a redundant steel shipping container which has served ever since as very basic changing rooms for the several local junior football teams.



At long last funds have now been secured to construct a purpose made facility on the same site to accommodate all local organised groups wishing to play sports on the adjacent recreation ground.

Locally born Architects Su Stringfellow and Sarah Harrison, who trade in Liverpool as "**Harrison Stringfellow Architects**" were appointed in December to draw up plans and specifications for a new facility which will be built in two phases as funds become available. Initially the Council hopes to have the basic structure completed for use during the 2012-2013 football season. The second phase which will include internal fittings and showers will follow as further funds become available.

The whole scheme is budgeted at £55,000 with funds coming from a West Lancashire Borough Council Grant of £15,000; £10,000 from Hesketh Bank AFC; an estimated grant from Veolia Environmental Services of £20,000 and £10,000 from the Parish Council itself.

ARE YOU A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER?

Unfortunately at the moment Hesketh Bank appears to have far too many irresponsible dog owners who either cannot be bothered to clean up after their pets or are too embarrassed to do so. There are areas of the village that are like an obstacle course to negotiate.

The Parish Council appeal to you to be responsible dog owners; please train your dog to use your garden or go out armed with nappy bags to clean up after it. If you don't want to be seen carrying a 'poo' bag around then take a carrier bag as well.

Allowing a dog to 'poo' on the pavement, or any other public space, and walking away from it is an offence punishable with a fine of £75 or worse still, that small child in the picture could be your child or your grandchild or a neighbour's child!



PARISH PRECEPT

Hesketh with Becconsall have done it again! The Council have reduced the precept by 1.3% for the year 2012/2013 - this is the third reduction in four years, and in that fourth year it remained static.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

The Parish Council is at the heart of our thriving local community and forms a key part of the democratic process. It gives people a 'say' at a very local level on proposals which affect them.

Parish Councils are involved in providing local facilities, such as playing fields, open spaces, play areas and allotments and, in conjunction with the County and Borough Councils, they may also be involved in traffic and highway schemes and other local initiatives. Increasingly, they represent the views and needs of their communities across a wide range of issues. The new "Localism Act" will give Parish Councils rights to influence and instigate strategic planning issues and a range of other important matters affecting the communities they serve.

The Powers and Duties of Parish Councils cover many things that people take for granted in providing the comfort and well-being of their local community. "Hesketh with Becconsall" Parish Council is accredited by the Government as a "Quality Council" having passed rigorous examination into the way it conducts its affairs; it has also been given the highest level of legal powers available to Town and Parish Councils.

Becoming a Councillor is a rewarding (*although unpaid*) and valued form of public service. Councillors (*or Members as they are known*) have to balance the needs and interests of their residents against costs and benefits.

All Councillors contribute to the work of the Parish Council by:-

- i. Having a say about the things they care about;
- ii. Putting forward ideas for better services;
- iii. Responding to the needs and views of their constituents;
- iv. Seeking the best outcome to local issues; and
- v. Getting involved in decision-making by voting.



An individual Councillor (*including the Chairman*) cannot make a decision on behalf of the Council. Therefore, co-operation between Councillors to achieve the best possible outcome for the community is the key to the success of the Council and the basis for a rewarding contribution. Importantly, this involves listening to the views of other Councillors and getting broad agreement on the best way forward.

The Council meets once every month (except August) and has Committees to consider particular topics (e.g. Planning, Recreation and Allotments); Working Parties are also established on an ad hoc basis as required to discuss issues and make representations to the full Council. Formal minutes recording the decisions made at all meetings are produced and these are also available to the public.

In addition to taking decisions at meetings, Councillors may also be expected to:-

- actively participate in projects being supported or sponsored by the Parish Council;
- represent the Council on other bodies; and
- Attend other meetings on particular subjects.

The Parish Council employs a professional Clerk to provide advice and assist them in fulfilling their roles. The Clerk is an independent and objective professional, who protects the Council by ensuring that legal, statutory and other provisions governing or affecting its operation are observed.

Still Interested? Elections for all eleven Members of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 3rd May 2012 and those elected will serve for four years.

In general terms, subject to a small number of additional qualifications and disqualifications contained in the Local Government Act 1972, electors over 18 years of age may become a Member of the Parish Council.

If you are still interested in putting your name forward at the election, contact the Returning Officer at West Lancashire Borough Council – Tel: 01695-577177 who will forward the forms to you in due course.



USE IT OR LOSE IT

This is the message coming from the County Council.

The 2C service (Thursday Ormskirk Market bus) is once again under threat of withdrawal because there are not enough people using it. The bus ran empty in January and as the service is subsidised by LCC they say that in today's economic climate they simply can't afford to run empty busses.

CONTACTING THE POLICE

- The new telephone number for contacting the police for '**non emergencies**' is **101**. Next PACT (Police and Communities Together) 1st March 6.30pm front hall at the Village Community Centre



CCTV MONITORING TO BE EXTENDED TO THE VILLAGE CENTRE

The Parish Council will soon be consulting with the Village Centre businesses over their plans to provide security monitoring of vehicles passing through the village and the commercial premises should owners so wish. The Council's existing seven cameras operating at the School, Shore Road Recreation Ground and Car Park as well as the Village Community Centre and Ball Court have proved invaluable in reducing crime and anti-social behavior. High quality images are constantly being recorded with the state of the art installations. If you have any views on the proposal, please let the Clerk know or respond through the Council's Website.

VILLAGE CENTRE FEATURE

To celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the achievements of local business, the Council will be erecting a "Village Centre Feature" at the top of the old railway bridge on Station Road. It was felt that the enormous progress made in recent years, not least by the arrival of Booths, and the significant improvements to the infrastructure are something for the village to be proud of and that it was time that this was marked in a permanent way. We have already invited some of the major businesses in Hesketh Bank to make a contribution to the project and this has been well received by everyone approached; we intend recording the names of the contributing firms on the feature. If you have a business that would like to be involved, please let the Parish Clerk know as soon as possible.

VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Work on improvements to this important village asset took another step forward with resurfacing works to the car-parks, access roadways and the installation of lighting columns being completed last month. This follows on from the well-used Ball Court facility which was completed in 2010 and the installation of decorative security fencing and CCTV.

Once again the Parish Council has worked in close co-operation with the Community Centre Trustees to obtain significant grants to improve and enhance this local asset without cost to the local community. Work on providing an amenity garden area for residents will commence shortly and will form a base for the "Village Walking Trail" that the Parish Council is planning to lay out over the coming years.

If you would like to help set up and maintain this new garden, contact the Parish Clerk.

VILLAGES IN PARTNERSHIP (VIP) Registered Charity Number: 1111237

VIP is a local Charity based in Croston that was set up in 2005. Our aim is to work with the community, for the community.

- Community Group needing funding – we can help find funders, completing and submitting applications for a small fee
- Thanks to funding from Chorley Community Housing's Neighbourhood Fund Coffee Mornings are held on the first Friday of each month at Croston Community Centre between 10am-1pm.
- VIP is always looking for local people to join us as Trustees. As a trustee you can give as much or as little time as you would like. All we ask is that you have an interest in improving the quality of life of residents in the 23 local villages (see our website for a full list) we cover. You would also be required to attend board meetings held in the evening on the first Tuesday of each month.

If you would like to volunteer at one of our charity shops in Eccleston, Longton or Hesketh Bank, please contact us.

Post: VIP Office, The Stables, Croston Community Centre, Castle Walks, Croston, PR26 9RH. **Phone:** 01772 603591

Email: vip@villagesinpartnership.org.uk **Website:** www.villagesinpartnership.org.uk

SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION

Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 18th May 2012



Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 18th May 2012 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.



You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Last year we had over 100 suppers taking part in England and Wales and we raised £6,000. In the three years we have been running the event we have raised £20,000 to support spinal cord injured people.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

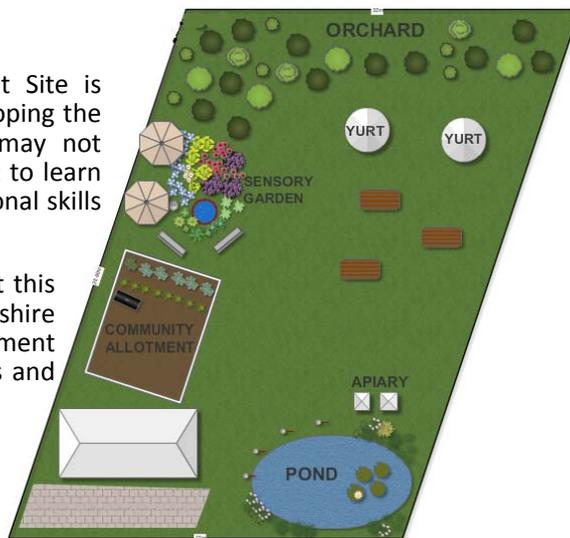
For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk/fishandchips

NEW SHOOTS EMERGING

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 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 to learn more about growing fruit and vegetables and gain some of the traditional skills associated with sustainable agriculture

A generous area of land has been reserved for projects that will meet this need and funding to start the work has been provided by West Lancashire Borough Council. A number of experienced and enthusiastic allotment holders have also volunteered to get involved and pass on their skills and knowledge.

Some potential projects have already been identified and these are shown on the plan alongside, but these are not set in stone. The exciting thing about the "New Shoots" development is that we are starting from a blank canvas and we are open to suggestions on how to take it forward.



If you think you might like to get involved and make some new friends along the way why not come along to find out more and contribute your ideas. A public meeting will be held on Thursday 8th March 2012 at 8.00 p.m. at Hesketh Bank Bowling Club. We hope to see you there.



LANCASHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2012

Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council are entering the Best Kept Village Competition again this year and the councillors overseeing the entry have issued a timely reminder for spring.

GET IT TIDY – KEEP IT TIDY – SWEEP, PAINT, TRIM AND PLANT.

They thank you for all your efforts last year but say ‘MUST DO BETTER IN 2012’

FLYING LANTERNS

Lancashire County Council has asked that the Parish Council urge all local residents to think of the dangers of flying lanterns before releasing them.

- **FIRE** – They pose a real fire risk when they come to earth and Lancashire Fire and Rescue have responded to a number of calls to fires where flying lanterns have possibly been the cause.
- **LIVESTOCK** – The metal and bamboo used in the construction of the lanterns can be and are digested by animals potentially causing a long and painful death.
- **DANGER TO AVIATION** – It is recommended that prior to release of flying lanterns all nearby airfields are informed. Lanterns can reach up to a mile in height and can be a distraction for a pilot or be a physical danger to low flying aircraft.
- **MISIDENTIFICATION** – flying lanterns can be mistaken for distress flares, unnecessarily using valuable and scarce emergency services resources.



PARISH COUNCIL:



Cllr. Iain Ashcroft 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Maureen Baldwin 5 Rankin Avenue, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Paul Blane 92 Station Road, 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. David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Richard Plant 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Paul Sergeant 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Hilary Tompkins 69 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank - Cllr. Ron Tyson Lansdowne, Shore Road Hesketh Bank

PARISH CLERK Ian T Cropper, Providence Place, 125 Roe Lane, Southport, Lancashire, PR9 7PG
Tel: 01772 812681 Fax: 02030 511934 Email: Clerk@HwBPC.org.uk

