
Did You Know?

Despite its strong Methodist connections, Hesketh with Becconsall once had three pubs within a half mile walk. Whilst many of you may have been aware of the famous Hesketh Arms, which was situated on the Brow on Station Road as it drops down into Shore Road, did you know that only a few yards along Shore Road you could have sampled the delights on offer at the George and Dragon? Anyone fancying a Pub Crawl those days could also have sauntered up Station Road to the Bay Horse at the corner of Newarth Lane. CHEERS!

The source for this story is a hand-drawn sketch map together with a list of occupiers of premises in Hesketh with Becconsall in 1819/20 produced by one Stanley Batey and currently in the possession of Greg and Anita Carleton of School Fold.

Do you have any interesting historical information on the village to share with us?

One More Try?

The removal of the Youth Shelter after only 3 months brought a sorry end to what had been seen by many as a long overdue initiative to provide our young teenagers with an alternative to hanging around the local shops and street corners.

The eternal dilemma in providing Youth facilities is how much supervision to build in. From experience, too much adult presence tends to drive the Youths away. Too little can lead to abuse of the facilities and surrounding neighbourhood.

Location is often the key and the Parish Council is currently reviewing other possible sites which might achieve a better balance between the wishes of the users and the concerns of the local residents and the wider community. One thing is certain, for any new attempt to succeed, everyone involved must acknowledge their responsibilities. The Parish Council, as provider of the Youth Shelter is a major stakeholder and has a responsibility to ensure that it is used properly and that its use causes minimum disruption to local residents.

The users of the shelter have primary responsibility to refrain from the kind of behaviour which led to its removal in March.

Equally, the parents of the Youths who use the shelter have a key role to play in getting the message home that the Youth Shelter, surrounding property and local residents must be treated with due respect – otherwise, any fresh attempt to reinstate the Youth Shelter is doomed to failure.

Community Facilities at Tarleton High School

Did you know that, as well as a Swimming Pool, Tarleton High School now has a brand new Multi-Purpose Sports Hall available for community use. Both of these excellent facilities are available for use by the public in the evenings and at weekends, as well as during school holidays.

The Sports Hall is available for 5-a-side football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis and indoor cricket practice and also for group/club use e.g. Trampolining, Gymnastics and Weight Watchers

For details of availability and charges for both the Pool and the Sports Hall Contact Stephen James, Community Facilities Manager, on 01772 817907.

Hesketh-with-Becconsall Parish Council

Newsletter

Issue 2 June 2005

Welcome to Issue No.2 of your Parish Council Newsletter. We had hoped to have a snappy title for the second edition following an overwhelming response to the competition we announced in the first issue.

However in the event we had a meagre two responses and, whilst we are grateful to Andy Rostron for "Delivering the Difference" and Nigel Spry for "Parish the Thought", we think its worth appealing one last time to your creative instincts to see if one of you out there can come up with something a little more catchy. Be warned if nothing is forthcoming you may be saddled forever with the "Hesketh Bank Herald" the "Hesketh Bank Bugle" or something equally gripping.

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Hesketh Bank Welcomes New PCSO



Hesketh Bank is delighted to welcome its latest recruit in the quest to provide a sense of safety, security and order within the community.

Our new Police and Community Support Officer, Robert Massam, joined Community Beat Manager, Phil Corrigan and Emergency Services Community Support Officer, Jan Dobson, at the end of April and will be providing a service jointly to the Parishes of Hesketh Bank and Tarleton.

Commenting on the move CBM Corrigan said, "Having PCSO Massam around will give a big boost to our resources for community policing in Hesketh Bank and Tarleton. This will help to provide a better police presence and a greater reassurance to the public."

New Website

The Parish Council is about to take a giant leap into the 21st Century world of electronic communications by launching its very own website.

Improving communications with the people of the Parish is just one of the aims we are striving for in seeking to become an accredited Quality Parish Council and, in this electronic age, many people want the ability to access information at the touch of a button.

We aim to pilot the website briefly to iron out any glitches before going live hopefully by mid summer.

Feeling Positive about the Future

At the Annual General Meeting held earlier this month, Councillor Reverend Plant was re-elected to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council with Councillor Paul Sergeant also re-elected as Vice Chair. In his first Annual Report Reverend Plant noted progress made over the last year on a number of fronts and was optimistic about the future. The full text of his report is reproduced below:

Chairman's Annual Report 2004/2005

I wish to begin this report by thanking my fellow Councillors and members of the community for their support during the past year. My thanks go especially to Ian, our Clerk, who has always been available with guidance and advice, which has been invaluable to me personally as a new Chairman. The progress we have made during the past year is due, in no small measure, to his dedication and hard work on our behalf and more importantly on the behalf of the whole Community.

I refer back to the report given by Councillor Murphy, the then Chairman at this assembly last year, in which he expressed the hope that *"that we can move forward and work as an effective team together as one, working proactively for the good of the community"*. I believe that in this last year we have begun to do just this and I am feeling positive about the future.

The year began very positively with the elections in June, and it is very healthy that there were a record number of 18 candidates for the 11 vacancies, Councillors Foster; Hunter and Ball were not re-elected and our thanks go to them for their service on the council. Councillors, Witter; Kirby and Trippier were elected and with the re-elected councillors have played their part during the year. The fact that every member of this Council has been elected stands us in good stead as we seek "Quality Council" status. In seeking this we realise that we have to improve our communications and we have launched a Quarterly newsletter; edited by Councillor Kirby and our thanks go to him. Our presence on the Internet is in the process of being updated and improved, both of these, together with better notice boards will help us communicate better and be more accountable.

We have improved the amenities and appearance of the village in many ways, The play area at Glen Park Drive has been completely refurbished and thanks must go to Councillor Murphy for his vision and drive to accomplish this, and plans are well underway for Shore Road; which already benefits from an extensive bulb planting in agreement and partnership with All Saints School. All playgrounds are now inspected weekly by Councillors and regularly by professionals with defects attended to promptly; rubbish and litter is removed every two weeks. In a rolling program, new bus shelters have been provided and located properly and wayside benches have been refurbished or replaced. At Christmas, we had the Christmas decorations, which were an unqualified success, and we must thank Councillor Tompkins and others for the idea and the implementation.

We are hopeful for a place in the "Best kept Village" competition and our efforts will be helped by the generous donation of hanging baskets from Alty s and Arden Lea Nurseries and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for these. You all know about the difficulties surrounding the Centenary Sports Ground and it is good that in consultation with, and helpful co-operation of, Hesketh Bank AFC, the matter has been resolved with the building of a new wall and the planting of additional hedging. Our thanks go to the football club for their constructive and positive attitude in resolving this problem.

Not everything has been positive, there are ongoing problems in the village but your Council is determined that things will improve. You are all aware of the saga of the youth shelter: It is a shame that this did not work out but the situation is under review and there is still a possibility that the shelter will be available again. I believe that we were right to attempt to meet the needs of our youngsters and we will continue to try to do so, to the benefit not only of our youth but all our community.

Financially, your council has spent widely this year and the precept showed a steep rise. From comments received from people in the village, the need for this is understood and accepted, as the results of our spending are very visible. The councils review had kept the precept for this year at the same level. However, in addition to the routine duties and ongoing improvement plans we have decided to install lighting on Shore Road from Hundred Lane End to School Fold. This will take place over a 2/3-year period at a cost of £15000 p.a. This expenditure has been forced upon us, as Lancashire County Council are unable to provide the capital to fund this, but I am pleased to report that we have reached agreement with them that they will maintain the lights and finance their running costs.

I began this report with "thank you's ' and I wish to end in the same way by thanking you, the wider community for the support you have given me and all your Councillors and by pledging that we will always do all we can to foster and strengthen this Community which we are privileged to serve. God Bless you all.

Parish Councillor Richard Plant, Chairman May 2005

Alty's Site: Latest Developments

In the last issue we included a questionnaire seeking your views on the Morris Homes proposal to develop part of the site for more housing. We had an excellent response and we are grateful to the Top Shop Newsagents and the Spar Shop at Chapel Road for their help as collection points for returned questionnaires. Results were as follows:-

In favour of the proposal	9
Against the proposal	123
No preference	0
Returned blank	1

The Proposal is still in the pipeline to be put before West Lancashire Council for consideration.

Meanwhile moves are clearly afoot to proceed with the building of the planned Booth's Supermarket. The site is now in their ownership and preparations are underway to enable building work to commence.

Take Pride in Your Village

As noted in the Chairman's annual report, Hesketh Bank has once again entered the Annual Competition for the Best Kept Village. Judging will take place between the 1st of June and the 15th of July, during which we can expect at least two visits, so it goes without saying that we must all do our bit to ensure that we keep the streets free of litter and dog dirt and try to keep our hedges and gardens as smart as possible.

Special thanks are due to Councillors Goodier and Farrington for their work on this endeavour and also to the Christian Fellowship Youth Group for organising a Village Clean-Up Task Force.

Please show your support in any way you can.