

# Shoreline Summary

Edition Number 25 ~ November 2011

## SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW COMPETITION

We asked you for the botanical name for the Poached Egg Plant which all you gardeners will know are **Limnanthes douglasii**.



The first correct entry drawn from the hat was from **Nicola Bower of 4 Alder Close** who won the tickets to Southport Flower Show and we hope that she enjoyed her day there. The runner up, **K Fleming of 46 Boundary Lane**, received two National Trust visit vouchers, we trust that you have had an enjoyable visit to a National Trust Property.

## HESKETH BANK ALLOTMENTS GRAND OPENING 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2011

It is fair to say that for everyone involved with the redevelopment of the allotment site the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2011 was a day that represented a fulfilment of so many dreams and the culmination of a lot of hard work by an enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Parish Council and allotment holders.

Few of the first 17 people on the waiting list allocated their plots in April 2010 could have imagined that fifteen months later the site would have had drainage installed, a car park laid and all 60 plus plots occupied; that The Hesketh Bank Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Association would be formed and managing the allotment site and that Professor David Bellamy OBE would be officially opening the site in the afternoon.



During the morning the site was all hustle and bustle as the final preparations were made, the weather a mixture of sun and cloud had everyone keeping their fingers crossed that the sun would continue to shine. As luck would have it shortly after David Bellamy and his wife Rosemary arrived on site the rain started and refused point blank to stop



from that point on. The weather, however, did not dampen anyone's spirits, Hesketh Bank Silver Band continued to play and the barbecues continued to supply much needed sustenance to any one who wanted it.

At three thirty, brollies at the ready, the 'platform party' assembled outside the marquee for the unveiling of the new sign that would grace the notice board at the entrance to the 'Poor Marsh' allotment site. A few words of welcome, thanks, congratulations and a potted history were given by Councillor Paul Blane, chairman of the Parish Council Allotments Committee, Parish Council Chairman Councillor Steve Kirby, Mr Sean Case, Chairman of HBALGA, the Mayor of West Lancashire Borough, Councillor Rob Bailey and finally the sign was 'unveiled' and the site declared officially open by Professor Bellamy. Professor Bellamy and his wife together with the Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire were



presented with boxes of vegetables and posies of flowers grown on the allotments as a thank you for their participation in the celebrations.



## So What Next? – Your Chance to Get Involved

Anyone who has followed the story of the redevelopment of the Poor Marsh Allotment site will know how much has been achieved in a relatively short time and what a fantastic success it has been in helping to build a real community spirit within the area.

Now that the Allotments are up and running and being managed by a Committee elected from the membership of the Hesketh Bank Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Association (HBALGA), it is time for the Parish Council Allotments Committee to turn our attention to the next phase of the development of the site:

Approximately one third of the 4 acre site has been set aside for the development of a Permaculture Project. This is currently a grassed area in the middle of the allotments. Permaculture is an approach to sustainable development which is based on the philosophy of co-operation with nature and caring for the earth and its people. You can get a much better idea of what this means in practice by visiting a wonderful example – the Offshoots Permaculture Centre at Towneley Park in Burnley or by having a look at their website

[www.offshoots.org.uk](http://www.offshoots.org.uk)



A number of typical features that might be included within our own Permaculture Project have already been identified, including Bee Hives, an Orchard and a Pond. It is envisaged that the Project will be developed and managed by interested volunteers from HBALGA and from within the local community, with funding and support from the Parish Council, West Lancashire Borough Council and other funding bodies. In time we see it as delivering a fantastic leisure and educational resource which will provide the opportunity for local people to enjoy, learn from and share in.



If you think you might be interested in getting involved why not turn up to a Public Forum to be held at **Hesketh Bank Bowling Club at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011**. If you haven't already visited the Poor Marsh site, why not have a stroll around the perimeter path and check out the amazing progress on the allotments. (Dogs on leads are welcome if accompanied by responsible poop scooping owners) or take a look at the allotments web site [www.heskethbankallotments.co.uk](http://www.heskethbankallotments.co.uk)

### SHALE GAS EXPLORATORY DRILLING

Members of the Parish Council visited the Cuadrilla site on Banks Marsh during September to be educated in the technology being used and to seek advice on issues raised by residents, and the concerns of Members themselves. The two and a half hour visit included a guided tour of the complete facility as well as an interactive educational session with the Chief Executive of Cuadrilla and the Site Manager. Members also met with the independent on site geologist who monitors the subterranean rock formations as the rig drills to its 10,000 feet deep target area of Bowland Shale. Members were particularly interested in the site and ground protection systems which are designed to contain and deal with any accidental spillages and the ground monitoring units. Our picture shows Parish Council Chairman, Steve Kirby, being shown the vast array of electronic monitoring and control systems which the Rig Operator uses to operate the rig.



In September, shortly after the Parish Council's site visit, Cuadrilla announced that it has found vast gas resources underground amounting to 200 trillion cubic feet (more than 10 times the reserves known to

exist under the UK's part of the North Sea) which will potentially produce gas for up to 30 to 50 years and create 100's of new jobs in Lancashire.

In October a report was published confirming that the unusual seismic activity near Poulton-le-Fylde in April and May 2011 was highly likely to have been caused by 'fracking' due to "an unusual combination of geology" at the well site. Using the findings, the report sets out an early detection system which Cuadrilla can use to monitor seismic activity and implement a series of steps to prevent the escalation of any future seismicity. Mark Miller, Chief Executive of Cuadrilla Resources, commenting on the release of the report said: "We unequivocally accept the findings of this independent report and are pleased that the report concludes that there is no threat to



people or property in the local area from our operations. We are ready to put in place the early detection system that has been proposed in the report so that we can provide additional confidence and security to the local community".



The Northern Parishes (The Parish Councils of Hesketh with Beconsall, North Meols and Tarleton) held a public meeting at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Tarleton on Friday 4th November 2011. The meeting was chaired by the BBC North West Presenter Dave Guest who in his own inimitable way took firm control of the meeting which was attended by approximately 250 people, all eager to put their concerns about the extraction of shale gas from sites in Lancashire directly to representatives from Cuadrilla plus an independent authority on drilling for oil and gas and an authority on climate change from the Tyndall Centre, Manchester University.

Unfortunately, because of the high turnout of people interested in and concerned about the drilling and the time constraints, it was impossible for everyone to put their questions to the panel. However a wide range of questions were asked and answered and the organising committee felt the event had been a positive and worthwhile exercise.

### PACT (Police and Communities Together)

There has been a change to the Policing arrangements in the Northern Parishes – Hesketh Bank is now partnered with Banks and will be policed by PC Mark Woolston and EPSO Andy Curry. Pact Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every other Month: January/March/May/July/September/November, at Hesketh Bank Village Hall (front Hall) - Public 6.30pm, Pact Panel 7 – 8pm.

The Hesketh Bank Pact Panel would like to recruit one or two members of the public to work with the existing public and Parish Council representatives. If you are interested please contact Mr Ian Cropper, Clerk to the Council.

### 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 Beconsall 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. Ron Tyson Lansdowne, Shore Road Hesketh Bank –
- Cllr. Hilary Tompkins 69 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

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