



Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter

Produced by Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council
March 2021

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Your chance to make a difference

The Parish Council comprises of eleven Members of the public who normally serve for four years. However, the present council all stand down this year after having served a term of five years due to the elections being postponed because of Covid in 2020, and we would like to take this opportunity thank them for their service.

If you are over 18 and living in, or within three miles of, Hesketh Bank you are likely eligible to stand. The Election process is managed by the Returning Officer at West Lancashire Borough Council in Ormskirk, but you can obtain further information and a link to the nomination papers from the Parish Clerk. Parish Councils are independent of both Borough and County Councils and operate within their own legal framework. They are in the main non-political although clearly Members may have their own political views, and work to promote and maintain their own Parochial Area, seeking to represent the views and aspirations of the residents who elected them. They are financed by a precept, which is added to the local Council Tax bill and amounts to around 80p per week for a Band D home here in Hesketh Bank. In addition, they endeavour to source grants and funds from other organisations to promote their work. If eleven or less prospective candidates put their names forward, they will be 'elected unopposed', however more than eleven nominations will result in an **election on Thursday 6th May**. Therefore, who represents you is entirely dependent on your vote.

Put yourself forward as a prospective Councillor.

The deadline for nominations is 4pm on Thursday 8th April.

Contact the Parish Clerk on 01772 812681 or clerk@heskethbankcouncil.uk for more information/the link to download a nomination pack.



So what does the Parish Council do?

The Council is currently working on the Linear Park path and cycle way from the new housing development at the old Henry Alty Brickworks through to Tarleton Academy and has contributed to the brand new Community Centre building on Station Road, which is due to reopen this year. Both of these projects are being funded by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies raised from new homes in the village.

Along with our award winning Allotments on Shore Road, the Council also manages the recreation, play area and open air gym at Shore Road, and the play areas at the side of Becconsall Gardens and Glen Park Drive. It has purchased and maintains several plots of land around the village as Green Spaces, contributing to the general ambiance, all the wayside seats and bus shelters.

Safety is also an important part of the Parish Council efforts - it has installed and maintains three Vehicle Speed recording units and twelve CCTV cameras in the village.

Looking forward, the Council still hopes to acquire the Poppyfields play area and public open space.

Love Hesketh Bank Award Winners

On the 14th February 2021 the Parish Council announced its 'Love Hesketh Bank' award winners for the sixth year running as follows. Some are pictured wearing their Love Hesketh Bank pin badge awards.



John Birchall, 75, who has won the Love Hesketh Bank Best Kept Allotments prize several times, has been recognised for not only tending to his own plot but working with others on the communal areas of the site and has been helping other plot holders with theirs whilst they have been unable during the pandemic. Most notably John spent two months digging out 50 apple trees and 15 fruit bushes by hand to make way for more plots.



Diane Mackley and Vivien Mumford, two of the people behind Tarleton and Hesketh Bank Helpers which was set up to provide support to those self-isolating and has grown in numbers and activities. Vivien said, "What a lovely surprise!" which came at the same time as the group was awarded a certificate of recognition from the High Sheriff of Lancashire for their 'exceptional service to the community during the pandemic'. Diane said, "I'm very grateful to be able to play a role as part of a brilliant team," and they both thanked Greg Mitton from West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Services, who has helped them access funding to be able to do so much.



Tony and Valerie Barrow, who have maintained a community garden in Sidney Avenue for the past six years, were 'thrilled' to hear of the award and said it was lovely to be thought of and appreciated. But, they were keen to point out, that without the support of neighbours and friends, providing plants and seeds, their digging, planting, watering and feeding would be for nothing.



Denise Johnson, who has lived in Hesketh Bank for many years, has been picking up litter on her daily walks – even in the recent snow. She said, "I have been asked if I am getting paid to do this, but of course I'm not. It is just a good thing to do and perhaps it will encourage others to get involved too."



Margaret Harper, 75, is a keen sewer and was interviewed on BBC Radio Lancashire talking about the masks she made which raised £300 for local primary schools. Margaret said, "It touches the heart to receive this award."





Valerie Carter, 71, has made over 900 masks and knows only too well the affects of COVID - as her daughter is a nurse and her sister has suffered with it. So, she got quite emotional when she heard about her award: "It is very nice to be thought of in this way. Sewing is something I can do, having been a dress-maker for many years, so I just did what I could to help the community."



Mike Ellis, who designed the Helping Hands newsletter that was set up to reach out to residents. He emailed the Parish Clerk to say, "I have just seen the Love Hesketh Bank Facebook post and was surprised, no shocked, to see my name on the list. Lost for words - thank you so much....something I never expected."

The people behind the Helping Hampers food parcel initiative, who said "We have been simply overwhelmed by the community response to our efforts. Many, many people have come forward and donated, and it has been very heart-warming."



Your Linear Park is Taking Shape

The creation of a Linear Park running along the West Bank of the River Douglas has been a long held ambition for the Parish Council. Indeed it was one of the key aims of the Parish Plan published in 2008.

For those unfamiliar with the term, the idea for the Linear Park is to construct a durable, well maintained and easily accessible pathway along the west bank of the Douglas with some well sited provision for rest, relaxation and recreation together with information/interpretation boards at various points along the way.

The Parish Council has taken ownership of several large tracts of the riverbank from Henry Ally and plans are now well underway to begin work on the first phase of what will become known as the Henry Alty Way covering the stretch running from the new Green Space within the Persimmon development to Riverview.

The work will be funded from the Parish Council's share of monies generated by the Community Infrastructure Levy that Persimmon Homes has to pay to West Lancashire Borough Council as part of planning permission for the housing development in and around the old Brickworks site.

Going forward the Parish Council is working with West Lancs Borough Council to extend the Linear Park to further stretches of the river bank. This will provide a safe scenic and environmentally friendly alternative route for cyclists and pedestrians between Hesketh Bank and Tarleton.

It will also tie in with the plans currently being developed by English Nature to provide a walkable route to Southport and beyond as part of the North West stretch of the English Coastal Path that was promised in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Councillor Christie stands down



Thank you to Councillor Jeff Christie, who stood down earlier this year, as he prepares to make a new life outside of Hesketh Bank.

We wish him all the best.

A new era for Community Centre

On 26th April 1944 twelve good men of the Parish of Hesketh with Beconsall completed the purchase of a parcel of land from the Hesketh Sports Company Limited 'for the establishment of a Village Institute to be used in perpetuity as a non-sectarian and non-political place of recreation and social intercourse'. This was a generous gesture not uncommon at this time, where the local folk strove to provide something good for returning heroes and local inhabitants after the hardships endured during the World Wars.



However, it wasn't until 1964 that funding from Lancashire County Council enabled a modest building to be erected at the front of the site. Fast forward to the seventies and more good people of the village organised some fundraising events to scrape enough money together to create a Youth Club at the back of the site by repurposing a former timber mess hut from Weeton Army Barracks. The large wooden hut was transported by local resident Frank Wright on the back of his father's fruit and veg wagon and re-erected with help from parents and youths of Hesketh Bank. This later became home to Happy Days Nursery, Scouts and Beconsall U3A, to name just a few, as well as providing a venue for the likes of Mikron Travelling Theatre.

Sadly the old building was coming to the end of its useful life, but six dedicated and determined volunteer trustees managed to raise over £400,000 for the shiny new purpose built Community Centre - that is now in place and raring to be used - and remains true to the original vision of those twelve good men.



Rural Taskforce

New, dedicated Rural Taskforce teams, with a total of 20 police officers, have been set up across Lancashire to target issues including machinery theft, rural, wildlife and heritage crime which has been funded through the police officer uplift programme.

Dates for your diary

The Parish Council usually meets every second Monday in the month, except in August, at Hesketh Bank Community Centre, however, meetings are currently being held online. If you would like to attend a meeting please, contact the Clerk (clerk@heskethbankcouncil.uk) for the link.

The forthcoming meeting on the 12th April at 5pm will review the past year and the meeting on the 10th May TBC will convene the new Council.

All residents are welcome to attend, not only to hear about the work of the Council but also to raise any concerns or questions that they may have. If you have any questions or concerns you wish to raise outside of these meetings, then please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@heskethbankcouncil.uk or 01772 812681.

Your Parish Councillors

Paul Sergeant, Chairman, 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank
Norma Goodier, 3 Carr View Close, Tarleton
Steve Kirby, 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank
Richard Plant, 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Iain Ashcroft, 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank
John Hunter, 1 Langdale Avenue, Hesketh Bank
David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank
Ron Tyson, 'Lansdowne' Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

Parish Clerk, Diane Earles

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