

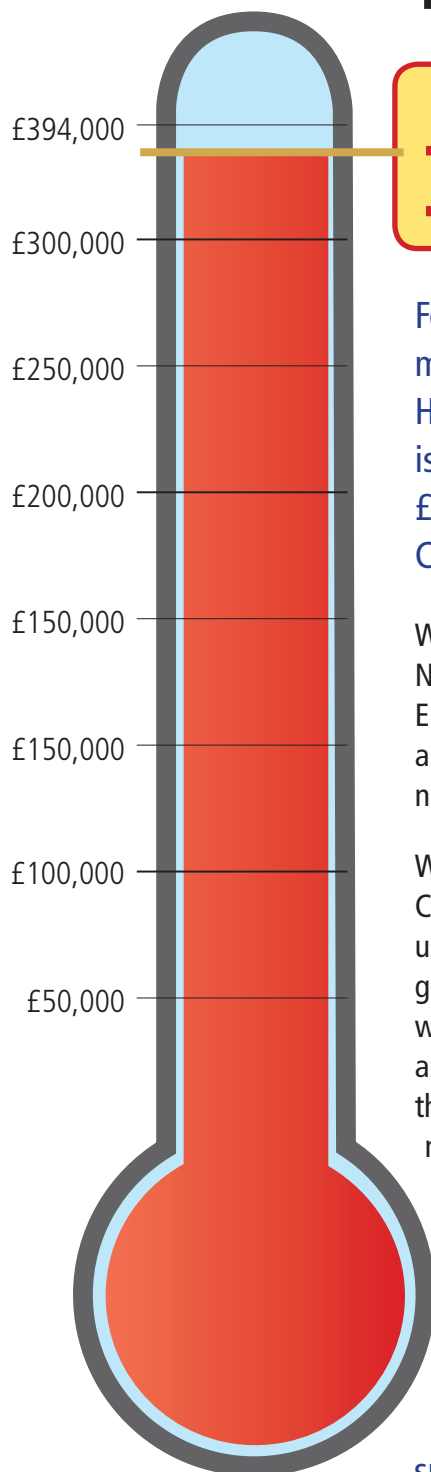


Community View

The Hesketh Bank Community Centre Newsletter

Issue 11 - April 2020

Nearly there!



£366,753 secured

Following the award of three major funding grants, Hesketh Bank Community Centre is close to reaching it's target of £393,947 to build a new Community Centre.

Without the amazing support of the National Lottery Reaching Communities England Fund, West Lancs Borough Council and Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council, none of this would have been possible.

We also have to thank other organisations: Co-op Local Causes have generously supported us for two years, Persimmon Homes have given us two grants and you, the community, who have supported our events and markets and made generous donations. It's taken three years of very hard work and we are nearly there.

But not quite - there's still some work to be done. We really do need your help to raise the final £27,000 we need. Contact us to find out how you can help. Your support could make it happen.



£199,213



£100,000



£50,000

T 07784 942127 E info@heskethbankcommunitycentre.org.uk

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Hesketh Bank Community Centre - Station Road, Hesketh Bank, PR4 6SR. Registered Charity Number: 1180178



What's the plan?

As agreed at the December 2019 Public Consultation, the new building will sit on the same footprint as the existing Back Hall. No other building on the site or the MUGA will be affected by the works. A planning application has been submitted to West Lancs Borough Council - 2020/0130/FUL - and we will have a response by May 5th.

The new hall will be a modular, factory-built building that will be assembled over a two day period. Placing the order to opening the hall will be achieved in twelve weeks. The building has been designed to be fully accessible to all users and will have three hall spaces, a kitchen and social meeting area. We are working towards having as low a carbon footprint as we can achieve. In addition, it has been designed to be as efficient as possible with automatic lighting and heating systems so that we can keep our charges as low as we are able. Light and airy, it will be very different to the existing hall.

Timescales

Until we obtain Planning approval and secure the final funding that we need, we cannot start work. When we know more, we will contact all of our users to brief them. It is our intention that disruption to groups will be kept to a minimum.

The progress of the current coronavirus pandemic will ultimately control our timescales and actions so we will use social media and websites to provide updated information. If you want to be sure of receiving updates, you can be kept informed directly. Please let us have your email address and we will add you to our mailing list.



We are a Co-op Local Cause at Tarleton and Banks shops.

With the support of the Co-op, you have already helped us to raise more than £4,200.
Please choose Hesketh Bank Community Centre as your Local Cause to support.

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Hesketh Bank Community Centre Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Our Trustees



Diane Earles



Tony Earles



Bill Hall

Looking back over last year's annual Report, when our ambitions for a new Community Centre were still no more than hopes and dreams it is truly fantastic to be able report that now almost every hurdle has been cleared and we are very nearly within touching distance of the finishing line.

Getting all the ducks in a row for the new build alongside organising fundraising events and dealing with a range of running repairs to the existing centre, whilst trying desperately to minimise associated costs has been a considerable challenge. However, the six Trustees who currently manage the Community Centre on your behalf have performed heroics this last year and deserve a special mention.

Diane and Tony Earles are the only Trustees who manage to combine the role with their full time jobs. Diane is our Treasurer and also manages our Publicity and Media Relations initiatives. She created and runs the Love Hesketh Bank Campaign and regularly issues the press releases you will often see in the Champion and Local Life. Diane also helped to raise our profile by bringing Radio Lancashire and That's Lancashire TV to the Community Centre here in Hesketh Bank.

Tony is our Bookings Secretary and IT Guru and has made significant improvements to the day to day running of the Centre by introducing an online diary for hall bookings, electronic document storage, a key fob alarm system and CCTV for improved security. Tony also plays a key role in setting up and running our fundraising events. Together, Tony and Diane have helped to achieve a fourfold increase in hall bookings.

Bill Hall is our Vice Chair and has brought his considerable experience in office management and finance to bear in the bid preparation and project planning stages of this complex enterprise. His meticulous attention to detail has been invaluable in our progress. Bill has also organised several very successful fundraising events, especially the famed Lancashire Day and Burns Day celebrations.

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Sue Ellis



Mike Ellis



Steve Kirby

Last, but by no means least, Sue and Mike Ellis complete the team of Trustees.

Sue is our Events Coordinator and is always focussed on the task at hand. She is very good at holding our feet to the fire to make sure we deliver on our promises - especially Mike! Sue also has lots of practical skills and is a great organiser. She excels in cooking, baking and all manner of creative crafts and has initiated our very successful Craft and Artisan Table Top Sales at which she introduced the drop-in cafes which have proved to be an extremely popular boost to our fundraising.

Mike is our Project Manager and his considerable design skills and highly successful business background have been critical to achieving our goal. He has devoted an amazing amount of time, effort and talent into getting us where we are now and he has been the lynchpin of our fundraising drive. His bid proposal to the National Lottery was 'One of the best they had ever seen'

This is just a snapshot of the team of Trustees who manage your Community Centre - and yes it is YOUR Community Centre. The Trustees only manage it on your behalf.

However, I think they are doing a fantastic job and in the future they will need your backing, both as supporters of our events and fundraising activities and as volunteer helpers - Running the Community Centre with fully paid staff is not viable without some form of public funding. At this point it is time to say a big thank you to all those who have given their support in the last twelve months - All our regular users, especially Beconsall U3A, our volunteer helpers and all our donors, especially for our major grant funders:

The National Lottery Reaching Communities England Fund,
Awards for All,
West Lancs Borough Council,
Hesketh with Beconsall Parish Council,
Co-op Local Causes
Persimmon Homes

But, just when the dream is about to become a reality, up comes a national crisis to bite you in the bum! Hopefully, Covid-19 will only cause a delay, not a major setback to our plans and some time later this year we will be able to celebrate the creation of a brand new purpose built Community Centre with a Grand Opening that many of you will attend.

Steve Kirby
Chairman

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