

# Dig In

Community Food Growing in West Lancashire

## Schools Growing Project...is growing!

Our School Support Worker, John Hutchison reports: *'The schools food growing programme has rolled up its sleeves for a final push and added another 7 primary schools into the scheme. Again funded from Red Apple along with a substantial grant from the West Lancashire Strategic Partnership, the 7 schools are Bishop Martin, St Edmunds, and Elm Tree in Skelmersdale and Crawford Village, All Saints Appley Bridge, Holmeswood and Aughton St Michael's. Staff and children are delighted as they begin work on the recently installed raised beds. Each school will also receive a small pack of tools and equipment to get them underway, along with mentor support from an experienced grower.'*

We are looking to recruit an additional worker to help with the School Growing project. If you have experience of working with children, enjoy growing food, have a valid CRB clearance, and can spare a few hours a week this summer, please get in touch with Martin Trengove on 01695-733737 asap.

## In praise of allotments

The chilly Easter holidays saw the start of filming for the Community Food Growing video. Students from Edge Hill University's Media department braved the weather to conduct interviews with plotholders at Owen Avenue, Ormskirk and Hesketh Bank Allotments. The final day of filming has been set for June 18th when it is hoped that plotholders at DIGAS, Skelmersdale and St Teresa's, Upholland will add their voice on the joys of growing your own food and the health benefits of having an allotment.



**Green Fayre:** Billed as a 'celebration of the countryside and countryside life', the Green Fayre will take place this year at Beacon Country Park on July 21st and 22nd. After last year's success, West Lancs Allotments Federation will once again be having a stand and running a Vegetable Tomola. If you are able to help out the stand and activities or can donate any seasonal veg for the Tomola, do get in touch with either Ray (rfowler001@btinternet.com) or Terry(terry.lake@tinyworld.co.uk)

For more information on the Green Fayre, go to [www.visitlancashire.com/whats-on/search/green-fayre-2012-p666210](http://www.visitlancashire.com/whats-on/search/green-fayre-2012-p666210)

**Do you need scaffolding boards?** Our School Support Worker John Hutchison is selling scaffolding boards (donated by a scaffolding company) to raise money for a Community Allotment project that he's heading up in Everton. Prices range from £4 to £8 depending on length of board. Delivery can be arranged for £15 on top of the cost of boards. Minimum order is 6 boards. For more information, contact John on 0151-525-6899 anytime after June 11th or email: [johnhutch2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnhutch2@yahoo.co.uk)



# West Lancs Community Food Growing Project supporting local people to grow their own food

## Report from West Lancs Allotments Federation



West Lancashire  
Allotment's Federation

Our last meeting held at Burscough Cricket Club was very well attended and we welcomed two new reps - Jane Pashley for Skelmersdale Kitchen Gardens and Don Hooley for Burscough CC Gardeners.

On 1st April WLA was represented at the AGM of the Northwest Counties Region (National Society of Allotment and Leisure Growers). Northwest counties has just been extended and now includes Cumbria and South Lakeland. This AGM was held in the Manchester Federation area at the

Crumsall & Cheetham Allotments site. Before the AGM there were a number of presentations including one for the Blackpool Federation for their outstanding work for the allotment community. The Blackpool Federation has just taken over the management of Blackpool allotment sites from the Borough Council. Blackpool council also received an award for their efforts and support in this new venture.

For West Lancs, the **Hesketh Bank Allotments and Leisure Gardeners Association** received the prestigious award for regeneration of an allotment site. This site (pictured right) was officially opened last August by Sir David Bellamy and is well worth a visit.



The next meeting of WLA will be up in Hesketh Bank at the Bowling Club on 4th July at 7.30pm. Come along a bit earlier and visit Hesketh Bank Allotments before the meeting (for directions see [www.heskethbankallotments.co.uk/about/how-to-find-us/](http://www.heskethbankallotments.co.uk/about/how-to-find-us/)). You will be made very welcome.

Finally, the BBC recently urged gardeners to be aware of the risks of using compost following a series of Legionella cases in Scotland over the past five years. Go to: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-18206191](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-18206191) for more information.

Ray Fowler, Chair

The West Lancs Community Food Growing Project aims to get more people involved in growing their own food and eating more healthily. We are working with local communities and schools to set up community food growing initiatives and providing help in finding the land (and funds) that might be needed. **We are keen to hear from anyone interested in growing their own food with others in West Lancs. Please get in touch!**

**Martin Trengove**  
**John Hutchison**  
**Debbie Shepton**

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Voluntary Service



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