



Dig In

Community Food Growing in West Lancashire

Looking for funding in 2011...?

Community Food Growing Grants

The West Lancs Community Food Growing Project has a small amount of money to provide grants to groups wanting to set up new allotment / community food growing projects or to those already running sites - to help them encourage more people to get involved in growing their own food and / or make their sites more productive. The total pot of £8,000 has been provided by NHS Central Lancashire to promote health and well-being. Priority will be given to those groups that did not receive a CFG grant last year.

Applications for funding (up to £2,000 for new sites and £1,000 for existing sites) can be made by completing a simple application form which is available from West Lancs CVS. Phone Martin or Debbie at the CVS on 01695 733737 to discuss your ideas and to be sent a form. The funding will be allocated by the end of March 2010 and the **deadline for applications is Friday 11th March**.

The Tree Council

The Tree Council is offering help for tree planting through its 'Trees for Schools' and 'Community Trees' grant programmes. This can include planting fruit trees. Any community group or school planning a project that actively involves children under 16 is encouraged to draw on the fund to plant trees and make a greener future. Successful applicants will be expected to organise their planting events to coincide with The Tree Council's [National Tree Week](#) (26th Nov—4th Dec 2011). Funding is available for projects between £100 and £700 and successful applicants will receive up to 75% towards their planting costs. For details and an application form, go to: www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants. **Deadline for applications is 31st March 2011.**

Info on sources of grants - CVS

The CVS website has a comprehensive, newly updated list of sources of small grants for food growing projects. Go to: www.wlcvcs.org/document-downloads/doc_download/24-sources-of-small-grants1.html

Potato Day - Sunday 6th Feb 2011

10am- 3pm at Woodley Park Centre, Woodley Park Road, Ashurst, Skelmersdale, WN8 6UQ.

Don't miss this great local event, attended by people from far and wide last year! A chance to stock up for Springtime planting! Choose from up to **100 varieties of potato** tubers available for purchase. You can buy them in any multiples e.g. one or a dozen or more. Seeds, Onion sets, Garlic and plants are also available.

Also attending: **BBC Radio Lancashire** - live on site programme 11am – 1pm, with horticultural expert on hand to answer questions. **Skelmersdale Community Food Initiative** - giving away recipes, potato tasters and nutritional advice. **West Lancs Allotment Federation** - giving details on how you can get involved in the new network. **Refreshments.**

Organised by Skelmersdale Horticultural Society. For more information, call Margaret on 07909660077 or Steve on 07876442341 or email SHSociety@tiscali.co.uk or go to their website <http://skelmersdalehorticulturalsociety.co.uk/Calendar.aspx>



February 2011

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

Community sites update

- **Owens Avenue, Ormskirk:** A group of allotment enthusiasts has set about regenerating the disused allotment site at Owens Avenue. Five out of the six allotments are now filled and the site has new gates. The group is currently sourcing water containers and plan to put up a tool shed on site.
- **Tower Hill, Ormskirk:** Interested ploholders met this month and formed an Allotment Society for the Tower Hill site. The Society will have limited responsibilities including acting as a network for ploholders, looking at issues of joint purchasing of tools and equipment, social activities, insurance etc. The main site management responsibilities (waiting lists, plot allocation, scrutiny, and payments) will remain with the Council.
- **Digmoor Inspired Growers Allotment Society (DIGAS):** DIGAS has finally been successful in its planning application but needs to adhere to a small number of conditions. The ploholders will now be able to go ahead with the development of the allotment site and their individual plots. They are hoping to secure the site and increase its membership and plots this year.
- **St Teresa's, Upholland:** The Steering Group has been working hard since September to get this new site up and running. The number of plots has yet to be finalised, but between 30 and 40 micro-plots (half or one-third of a standard full-size plot) are likely, depending on demand. Those who have already registered their interest are being invited to an initial General Meeting, to be held on 10th February, at which it is hoped to adopt the draft constitution and elect the first committee.

Dates for your diary

> **'Grow Your Own' Day—7th May 2011:** The Community Food Growing Project, in partnership with West Lancs Allotment Federation, is planning a 'Grow Your Own' day to encourage food growing in West Lancs—whether on an allotment site or at home. The day will include presentations and workshops on relevant subjects as well as a chance to stock up on essential supplies from a range of trade suppliers—including plug plants and equipment. The day will be held at the new Burscough Wharf on 7th May. More details in April's Newsletter.

> **'Big Six Week Veg' Challenge** will be running 26th April—3rd June. NHS Central Lancashire is developing the project with Greenhouse Sensations, a Lancashire based organisation, to challenge people to successfully grow a veg plot 6 weeks. Registrants will be offered a growing guide, access to free seeds and advice. More details on how to get involved will be in April's Newsletter.

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

CVS Project Co-ordinator
CVS School Support
CVS Community Support

Email: martint@wlcvs.org
Email: john@wlcvs.org
Email: debbies@wlcvs.org

Phone us on: 01695 733737



West Lancs Community Food Growing Project,
C/o West Lancs CVS, the Ecumenical Centre,
Northway, Skelmersdale, West Lancs, WN8 8LP
Tel: 01695-733737 Email: enquiries@wlcvs.org