



Dig In

Community Food Growing in West Lancashire

Final Community Food Growing grants awarded

Congratulations to the local groups who were recently awarded grants from the final round of West Lancs Community Food Growing small grants fund. A total of £5,351 will be shared by five local food growing groups to help them in setting up new food growing projects or to encourage greater community participation and productivity on existing sites. The funding has been provided by NHS Central Lancashire to promote health and well-being. Priority was given to those groups that have not received a CFG grant before. The successful groups were:

- **Liverpool Road Allotment Society:** £450 for fencing repairs and improvements
- **Burscough Allotment Society:** £900 towards the cost of new security fencing, soil improvement, clearing overhanging trees.
- **Appley Bridge Allotment Society:** £990 for soil testing and the creation of new allotments
- **Making Space:** £1411 towards the cost of establishing a new allotment site at the Don Orione Centre in Roby Mill
- **Greenhill Community Centre:** £1600 towards the cost of creating a Community Allotment site with raised beds at the Community Centre in Skelmersdale

In addition, seven schools with existing school food growing clubs were awarded small grants of £50 for start up costs for the coming season.

>>> Don't Miss 'Make a Tree' Day <<< Sat 17th March 2012 12 noon—3pm

Learn how to graft apple trees with Philip Rainford - Expert on the historic fruit of Lancashire
at St Teresa's Club, College Rd, Upholland

£5 entrance includes: 2 rootstocks, cuttings & materials. (Additional trees £2 each). Lunch available.

To book a place, phone 0151 522 1080 or email s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk
A joint event with Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission & Faiths for Change

Lights, camera, action!

As part of the evaluation of the Community Food Growing Project in this its final year, we will be working with students from Edge Hill University to create a film about the project which will feature the new community food growing groups in West Lancs. We will be looking at the differences that having an allotment or food growing at school has made to those involved - particularly changes in health and well-being.

We hope to be filming during March and April and will be contacting the groups that started growing over the last 3 years to see if we can feature you in our film!



March 2012

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

Report from West Lancs Allotment Federation

January 11th was the date for the second WLAF Annual General Meeting. This year it was held in the wonderful art deco surroundings of the West Lancashire Council Chambers in Ormskirk.

In stark contrast to the first AGM a year ago, this one was well attended. All the active 'local authority' allotment sites within the Borough are now represented plus a small number of the 'private' sites. We were also able to welcome reps from another group who are in the process of setting up a new site. But unfortunately no one was able to attend from the Borough Council. The main attraction came after the meeting when Peter Bradford gave us a rundown on his report 'Allotments and Planning Law'. I am pleased to say that a number of the representatives present are already using the information gained to their advantage. (Peter's report is available on the CVS website: [www.wlcvs.org/images/stories/files/CFG - Planning Digging Below the Surface Final 2.pdf](http://www.wlcvs.org/images/stories/files/CFG_-_Planning_Digging_Below_the_Surface_Final_2.pdf))

For the coming year we will continue to help and encourage all allotment groups, new and established. We will make a concerted effort to contact the remainder of those privately managed allotment sites within the Borough, to persuade them to join us.

Look for us again this year at the Green Fayre in Beacon Park, more details nearer the time. As yet nothing else as been planned but we will let you know.

Ray Fowler, Chair



More Raised Beds for School Allotments

West Lancashire Community Food Growing Project has applied for a small grant which if it is successful in securing, will enable it to provide a further seven primary schools in the West Lancashire area with raised beds for the growing of fruit and vegetables—together with a training package on running a school food growing / gardening club.

To be eligible, schools must be in the West Lancashire Borough Council area and currently have no facilities for the growing of fruit and vegetables. They must have a suitable site on which up to three raised beds can be sited and in a location fully and safely accessible to children. They will need to demonstrate that they have a committed member of staff to receive the training and manage the allotment and organise volunteers to help with the allotment and assist at the start of the project in the transfer of materials (timber and top soil) from the drop off area to where the raised beds are to be sited. If funding for this project is confirmed, we will need to move quickly to get the raised beds in place and crops planted before the end of April if at all possible—to ensure a harvest before the end July. We therefore may need to gain access to the school over the Easter holiday to have the raised beds installed.

Interested schools are requested to complete and return an emailed expression of interest form no later than 19th March 2012. The first seven schools to submit eligible applications and who meet the criteria will be accepted and provided with the raised beds and the training programme.

Further information and expression of interest forms are available from Martin Trengove at West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service - phone: 01695 733737 or email: martint@wlcvs.org



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

Mikron Theatre Company are putting together a performance called 'Losing the Plot' - a story of love between people and the land, love between people and people, and love between people and their giant vegetables. It's a lively mix of old music hall tunes and brand new songs, big characters, inventive storytelling, and the odd scarecrow. 'Losing the Plot' will tour nationally from April to October 2012 in venues as diverse as pubs, fields, village halls and polytunnels. The company are really keen to perform this play on allotments themselves, so if you think you have the perfect venue and would like to host a show, do get in touch with the company. Tel: 01484-843701 <http://mikron.org.uk/plotBlurb.php>



Free Trees to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee

Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, have fun and create a lasting legacy for your community or school by planting a free pack of trees from the Woodland Trust in 2012.

Community Groups can apply for a pack of either 105 or 420 trees in four different themes: wildlife, year-round colour, wood fuel or wild harvest. The only proviso is that the trees must be planted on land that everyone in your area can enjoy and benefit from (not private gardens or land with no public benefit). Schools and youth groups can apply for a hedge or copse pack, each containing 60 trees, to plant in their grounds.

Community groups:

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/jubilee-woods/what-you-can-do/communities/Pages/communities.aspx

Schools: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/jubilee-woods/what-you-can-do/schools/Pages/Schools.aspx

News from Allotment Regeneration Initiative: A new national organisation is being developed to act as a realistic response to the intense demand for community growing spaces. The concept of a Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS) is simple: to make more land available, and to facilitate access to that land, for use by community gardening and food growing groups across the UK. The service will act as a trusted intermediary and broker between landowners and community groups and will complement, support and enhance existing local and regional initiatives. During its three-year development stage it will be project managed by the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.

For more information, go to: www.farmgarden.org.uk/partnerships/858

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
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West Lancashire Council for
Voluntary Service

NHS
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Local Strategic Partnership

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