



# Dig In

Community Food Growing in West Lancashire

## Schools Show What You Grow Day



Green fingered school children from all over West Lancashire celebrated their growing achievements this summer at the 'Show What You Grow' festival of school gardening. Over 65 children from 9 schools brought scarecrows, school grown produce and displays of drawings, paintings, and photos of their gardening work to the event at West Lancashire College on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

The event was opened by the Mayor of West Lancashire Cllr Doreen Stephenson and the Mayor's guest Cllr Ruth Melling. The children then enthusiastically took part in activities such as making a Veggie Face, an Allotment Quiz (including a Spice Aroma test) and a Grow Your Own activity book. After a healthy veggie lunch prepared by the college, the children took to the stage to give presentations about their gardening clubs and the day ended with prize giving.

The event was organised by the Community Food Growing Project in conjunction with West Lancs Allotment Federation and West Lancashire College, and was funded by Upholland Tawd Vale Lions. The event was also supported by the local business community – M.A Forshaw donated all the vegetables and Artisan Foodworks Burscough donated the pizza dough for the Veggie Face activity. The prizes were donated by Alty's, LS systems, Morrisons and Suttons Seeds.



October 2014



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



## Grow Your Own and Allotment Community Classes

APPLY  
NOW!

### 1. 8 Week PCDL Grow Your Own Vegetables & Plants courses

This course is specifically for adults who enjoy gardening, would like to learn more about growing fruit and vegetables, that have or want an allotment or just want to come and socialise with others and learn a practical and enjoyable new skill.

This course, which is available in January & April, costs £76. If you are in receipt of benefits or earn under £21,000 a year, you may only have to pay £15. All community courses this year are 'buy one get one free' on completion of the first course. The course will run for 2 hours on a Wednesday 3-5pm for 8 weeks.

Please call 01695 52300 and ask for Learner Gateway for more information.

### 2. Horticulture Diploma Level 1- City and Guilds

Available mainly for school leavers aged 16-18. This course may lead on to Horticulture Level 2 and career opportunities such as Sales positions at Garden Centres, Self Employed/Contracted Gardener, Grounds care, Tree care, Botanical Centres, Landscaping, University and Teaching to name a few.

[www.westlancs.ac.uk/courses/school-leavers/horticulture-land-based-studies/practical-horticulture-skills](http://www.westlancs.ac.uk/courses/school-leavers/horticulture-land-based-studies/practical-horticulture-skills)



## Know anyone looking for an allotment?

There are a couple of plots available on St Teresa's Allotment site in Upholland.

To find out more, get in touch with Andrew Southworth on 01695-632721 [andy@southworth.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:andy@southworth.freeseerve.co.uk)

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## West Lancashire Allotments Federation

The Federation continues to be active throughout the Borough. Steve Kirby, our new Chair, is well on his way to visiting all the allotment sites in West Lancs, with visits in Ormskirk, Burscough and Skelmersdale done.

July 16<sup>th</sup> was the day for the second annual Show What You Grow Day for primary schools. WLAF took part with myself and Myra judging the vegetable displays.

West Lancs Borough Council held their Green Fayre over the weekend of July 19/20 and WLAF had a stand with all the NAS literature available. We showed how the allotments were distributed across the Borough with photos of each site and maps. This led to considerable amounts of discussion on the lack of public provision from the Borough Council.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August Hesketh Bank Allotments held their annual open day and vegetable show. National Allotment Society northwest region mentor Alan Hull, supported by show manager Steve Kirby (WLAF), officially opened the show. Myra and I judged the vegetables again this year ably assisted by third judge Celanie Ball of LS Systems Tarleton. There was also a programme of fun and games for the allotment children. Visitors were able to walk around the whole allotment site and see the active beehive from the viewing hide.



West Lancashire  
Allotment's Federation

**The WLAF's next general meeting is scheduled for 29th October  
at Ring O' Bells Lathom.**

Look forward to seeing you there!

**Ray Fowler  
Secretary.**



### Volunteer needed

St Peter and Paul's Primary School in Mawdesley are looking for someone to help with their Gardening Club.

They have an allotment and some raised beds. The Gardening Club has been run very successfully by two teachers and their enthusiastic pupils. One of the teachers has now left leaving a space in the system.

Anyone able to help should contact Head Teacher Trish Coulthard at the school on 01704 822216.

Email: [head@mawdesleyrc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@mawdesleyrc.lancs.sch.uk)





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

St T's

St Teresa's vacant plots

## Allotment Summer Fun

Several West Lancashire allotment sites took full advantage of the fantastic summer weather this year by holding open days or annual shows.



Owen Avenue Ormskirk  
- Open Day 26th July



Hesketh Bank Allotments -  
Open Day and Show  
30th August



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## Global Renewables

### Compost Giveaway

Global Renewables in Faringdon have lots of composted green waste to give away to community projects—up to 15 tonnes per group. They have just reopened applications so get your form in quickly! They will only supply community projects and not allotment sites as such, but if you have an area of the site or a project that is publicly accessible you would qualify.

For more information, go to: [www.globalrenewables.co.uk/compost-giveaway/](http://www.globalrenewables.co.uk/compost-giveaway/)

### Environmental Education

Global Renewables also has an Environmental Education Centre which includes highly informative FREE tours of their recycling plant (which is one of the most advanced in the world). Visitors can see inside the facility from the specially designed walkway over the sky bridge. The guided walkway tour provides a unique learning experience and enables visitors to see what happens to Lancashire's household waste and recyclables safely through glass windows without the need for hard hats or protective equipment. These tours are available to any club, group or school.



For more information, go to: [www.globalrenewables.co.uk/facility-tours/](http://www.globalrenewables.co.uk/facility-tours/) Or talk to Martin here at the Community Food Growing Project who recently went on one and would highly recommend it!

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**  
**Debbie Shepton**  
**Rachel Wheble**

CVS Project Co-ordinator  
CVS Community Support  
CVS School Mentor

Email: [martint@wlcvs.org](mailto:martint@wlcvs.org)  
Email: [debbies@wlcvs.org](mailto:debbies@wlcvs.org)  
Email: [enquiries@wlcvs.org](mailto:enquiries@wlcvs.org)

**Phone us on:**  
  
**01695 733737**

Keep up to date at our website: <http://wlcvs.org/index.php/community-food-growing>



West Lancashire Council for  
Voluntary Service

**Lancashire**  
County  
Council



**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](mailto:enquiries@wlcvs.org)**