



HYNDBURN

The place to be
an excellent council

Autumn Edition 2013



THE KNOBBLY CARROT GROWER

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Council's allotment newsletter. If you require further information on any of the articles please call Ian Marfleet on 01254 356180.

Over the course of the last 12 months significant progress has been made improving a number of allotment sites and reducing waiting lists. Large plots

at Robert Street, Heys, Ley Farm and Huncoat have been split into small more usable spaces allowing a greater number of people to benefit from having an allotment. Sites with large unused spaces have been regenerated and fully occupied, including Woodnook, Meadoway and Peel Park. During 2014 the Council intends to bring the Bullough Park allotment site into more productive use, anyone interested in a space or who knows of someone that may be interested please contact the Council on 01254 356180.

USE IT OR LOSE IT! During 2013 the Council served 72 work completion notices (8% of allotment tenants) and 26 eviction notices on allotment tenants. A few of the eviction notices are still pending due to personal problems of those concerned. Concern has been raised by one allotment tenant that the allotment officer is not visiting the allotments regularly enough, please be aware that many visits do take place, more so than is realised, and that they are always unannounced. During 2014 the Council intends to start its allotment enforcement action in early April. By that point in time preparation work for Spring planting should be well advanced. The Council will take appropriate enforcement action where there is no evidence of work taking place.



ACCRINGTON AT RHS TATTON PARK FLOWER SHOW 2013 – Message from Cath Holmes, Chair of the Hyndburn Federation of Allotments. Well who would have thought it! Little old Accy and a band of volunteers with a show garden at such a prestigious event – Amazing Edibles being the theme. Months of planning, preparation, scrounging helped the construction and installation run smoothly.

The project brought together various voluntary groups from Hyndburn – Baxenden Allotment, Church Prospects Panel, Clayton le Moors

Prospects Panel, Hyndburn Federation of Allotments, Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum, Incredible Edible Accrington, Milnshaw Allotment, National Veg Society, One Planet Planters, Sandy Lane Gardening Group – who all contributed towards the garden's success, which culminated in a Highly Commended Certificate and a Best Show Feature for the food.

We had financial support from County Councillors Wells, G Jones MP & Councillor Parkinson; HGSF; GPA; Mercer 1842 and Linkabord. Barnfield Construction donated wooden floorboard and timber joists from a demolition site in Nelson which were



used to make fencing and gates. Support and advice was provided by the Councils Parks department and Allotments Service.

The weather was superb (nearly), all week and we'd so many visitors; particularly on Saturday following a live broadcast by BBC NW Tonight on the Friday from OUR GARDEN! Which then led into a small feature of IE Accrington who they'd been filming the previous weeks. That really was the icing on the cake.



I was so tired though I can't remember what was on the feature when I watched it back home. I do remember a certain little nephew being asked if he liked vegetables and him replying "NO !!!" Finally a massive thank you to everyone who contributed, sponsored, grew, watered, visited, helped out in any way shape or form – without you it wouldn't have been possible.

CARAVANS ON ALLOTMENTS The Council will not allow caravans to be brought onto an allotment site. A caravan was burnt out on the Heys allotment site recently killing livestock, causing immense environmental damage and resulting in a call out to the Fire Brigade. The Council currently has two eviction notices in place due to tenants bringing caravans onto an allotment site.

MAINS WATER USAGE During 2013, a massive leap forward has been made in reducing the volume of mains water used on allotment sites. Water bills are now based on the actual amount of water used on each allotment site. The Council has now set its water bills per tenant for 2014. The amounts are based on 12 months prior use as recorded by the site water meters.



Huncoat	£19.46	Peel Park	£18.35
Clarendon	£33.65	Waverledge	£20.17
Ley Farm	£26.72	Milnshaw (top)	£16.34
Milnshaw (bottom)	£19.92	Meadoway	£14.48
Steiner View	£16.30	Whiteash	£102.53
Broadfield	£31.29	Robert Street	£18.99
Norden	£18.17	Raised Beds	£3.50

The odd one out above is Whiteash where a colossal amount of water has been used. No leaks, and several letters sent to tenants later, the problem could not be resolved. As a consequence a pressure reducing valve has been introduced, which prevents hosepipe usage. During 2014 the Council will be introducing a fair water use policy. The policy will prevent the use of sprinklers and limit the use of hosepipes for certain purposes only. The Council will be issuing further guidance shortly.

All allotment sites will have the mains water turned off over winter. The Council has a legal duty to prevent water wastage. A major source of cost to tenants and wasted water is burst pipes from freezing weather conditions. **Rainwater is FREE.**

WINTER SECURITY A tenant has asked that the Council reminds all tenants to check their plot regular even during the winter. Tenants are also reminded that they should not keep expensive petrol equipment on their allotment plot. During 2013 the number of thefts has been substantially reduced as a result of this message being followed. Thieves only break in if there is something to take. Please also remember that the use of barbed wire on allotment plots is forbidden. During 2014 the Council will be taking appropriate enforcement action against those using barbed wire. Please remove the barbed wire before it gets to this stage.

FLYTIPPING AND ALLOTMENT WASTE The Council is not able to provide a waste collection service from its allotment sites, nor is it able to provide skips. Tenants are expected to remove all collected waste themselves. Flytipping should be reported to the Councils on 01254 388111.

DISCOUNT OFFER Whewell's Toolbox in Accrington are kindly offering trade prices for allotment tenants - approximately 10% cheaper than retail. They are a family firm selling timber, hardware and tools, located in the centre of Accrington on Bridge St behind Argos. Please take this newsletter along with you to claim the discount.