



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 or allotments@hyndburnbc.gov.uk

PLOT INSPECTIONS The Council aims to inspect most of its 950 plus allotment plots during June/July every year to identify the plots that are not being used. This year 53 tenants received notice to bring their allotment plot into use and to a good standard, of which 23 then received a Notice to Quit for failing to use their allotment plot.

The Council does not wish to bring to an end an allotment tenancy agreement; however in some cases the Council is left with no option. The process of terminating a tenancy agreement takes approximately 3 months and is extremely time intensive with limited staff resources available. Any person who is unable to use their allotment plot, or wishes to inform the Council that they have a personal problem, should contact the Council as soon as possible.

MAINS WATER BILLS 2018 The Council has set the 2018 water bills for most of its allotment sites. Each allotment site has its own water meter; tenants are billed proportionately based on the bills received from United Utilities. The October water bill for Peel Park has yet to be received from United Utilities.

Huncoat	£17.23	Milnshaw (bottom)	£17.19
Peel Park	£TBC	Meadoway	£10.76
Clarendon	£21.68	Whiteash	£32.45
Waverledge	£13.71	Broadfield	£14.80
Ley Farm	£14.00	Robert Street	£24.26
Milnshaw (top)	£17.53	Norden	£9.76



WINTER WATER TURN OFF

All allotment sites will have their mains water turned off during winter. The water will be turned off on, or around, 5th November depending on weather conditions. In the past a major cost to tenants has been burst pipes during freezing weather conditions.

MINI DIGGERS Mini-diggers can cause serious injury to people and damage to an allotment site. Mini diggers can only be used on an allotment site with the permission of the Council.

The Council will require information about the driver, insurance cover, purpose of the work, disposal of waste material, date of work etc. Full details of the information that the Council needs can be found within the Councils allotment guidelines.



HEDGEHOGS ON ALLOTMENTS



Although the primary purpose of allotments is to grow food they offer many other benefits and their contribution to supporting wildlife in urban areas is significant. They form some of the best habitat mosaics and wildlife corridors, often linking up with parks, tracks, hedgerows, churchyards and rivers.

Hedgehog numbers in the UK have declined dramatically since the 1950s, from an estimated population of 30M to around 1.5M today. The cause of the dramatic decline is unknown, but almost certainly due to changes in agriculture and how people use land. The humble hedgehog has declined to a point near extinction in a lifetime.



Here are some top tips for helping your local hedgehogs:

Create your own hedgehog highway. To save the hedgehog we need people to work together with neighbours to make small changes that will make a big difference. This is crucial because no allotment, garden or green space can help hedgehogs in isolation, but when they are linked together hedgehogs can thrive in any location.



Hedgehogs need to be able to roam far and wide in search of food, mates and nesting sites. Get together with your neighbours to cut a 13cm x 13cm (5in) hole in your fence or dig a channel beneath allotment boundaries to connect your allotments.

Avoid the use of pesticides. Ditch the slug pellets and avoid the use of pesticides. Hedgehogs are natural "pest" controllers and need a plentiful and varied supply of invertebrate prey to stay healthy.

Make water safe. Hedgehogs are great swimmers but can sometimes struggle to climb out of steep-sided ponds and many drown. Provide a ramp from a plank wrapped in chicken wire or create shallow areas at the edge so they can scramble out.

Provide nesting sites. Log and leaf piles, wilderness areas and purpose-built hedgehog homes make great places for hedgehogs to nest and hibernate. Fallen leaves also make the perfect nesting material, so make sure you don't clear all of these away.

Grow a wide variety of plants. Attract plenty of natural hedgehog



food by keeping your garden diverse with a wide variety of habitats e.g. ponds, log piles, hedges, and a wide range of plant types. Don't be afraid to let your grass grow a little wild and leave some leaf litter – as both are important homes for the hedgehog's prey.



Be aware of dangers. Check for hidden hedgehogs before lighting bonfires, strimming and mowing the grass. Keep plant netting above ground level to prevent entanglement.

For further information on how to support and encourage hedgehogs please use the following link to the British Hedgehog Society <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>

For further information about gardening for wildlife please use the following link to the Wildlife Gardening Forum <http://www.wlwf.org/> or go to the Councils website where the Natural England publication 'Wildlife on Allotments' can be downloaded for free.



Wildlife on allotments

www.naturalengland.org.uk

