



# HYNDBURN

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Autumn Edition 2015



**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.

**ALLOTMENT RENT INCREASE 2017** At its meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 the Cabinet of Hyndburn Borough Council approved its allotment rent increases for 2017. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 the rent will be increased from 13p/m<sup>2</sup> to 14p/m<sup>2</sup>. The minimum charge of £35 for plots will remain unchanged, and the £20 charge for a raised bed will similarly remain unchanged. The Council has 973 allotment plots/raised beds of which 606 will be unaffected by the rent increase. All tenants affected by the rent increase will be

contacted between November and December with further information. The Hyndburn Federation of Allotments discussed the proposed rent increases at its meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and made the following comment, *"The report was emailed to 57 individuals, 4 Councillors, with 3 responses back. The responses have been positive, in favour of the 1p rise. We feel the rise is reasonable and in line with the responses to the 2012 Allotment Consultation. Rents in Hyndburn appear to be in line with others in the North West"*.

**MAINS WATER BILLS 2016** The Council has set its water bill for 2016. Each allotment site has its own water meter.

Huncoat	£9.63	Milnshaw (bottom)	£15.64
Peel Park	£16.83	Meadoway	£6.94
Clarendon	£32.81	Whiteash	£41.28
Waverledge	£14.84	Broadfield	£18.86
Ley Farm	£13.47	Robert Street	£21.99
Milnshaw (top)	£11.69	Norden	£10.78

(\*Water bill per tenant)

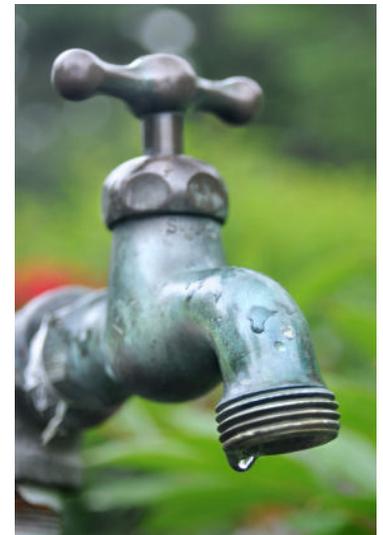
Please remember that the Council simply acts as the middle man between tenants who consume water and United Utilities who supply the water. The amount paid by each tenant is proportionately based on the previous 12 months actual use recorded by United Utilities.

The more water that is consumed the higher the bill, please use water responsibly and collect rainwater wherever possible.

Water Saver Scheme - Tenants who consume excessive quantities of water are being subsidised by tenants who do not use mains water or use very little. Any person wanting to come off water billing from January 2017 should make an application in writing to the Council before the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

**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, 5<sup>th</sup> November depending on weather conditions. The Council has a legal duty under the water supply regulations to prevent water wastage. In the past a major cost to tenants is burst pipes during freezing weather conditions. If tenants are unhappy

about these arrangements, please contact the Council and measures whereby the tenants themselves can take over the bill, subject to United Utility approval, can be discussed.



**HYNDBURN FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENTS** Message from Cath Holmes, Chair of the Hyndburn Federation of Allotments. It has been a relatively quiet this year with no major issues. There has been consultation on the annual rent increase, introduction of water opt out scheme, tenancy deposit scheme; which have all been supported at the HFA meetings. Sadly there have been a lot of thefts from sheds, theft of livestock, livestock being killed, and fires which has seen some allotments raised to the ground.

On a more positive note, in July this year the HFA exhibited for a 3rd time at RHS Tatton Flower Show. The theme was Allotmentality – promoting the benefits to mental health, general health and the wellbeing of allotments. The Sandy Lane Gardening Group, whose members suffer long



term mental health problems; has seen hospital re-admissions half due to gardening. They were the stars of the Show, running a competition through Creative Support to plant up a raised bed which was then incorporated into the exhibit, which included a greenhouse, shed, patio and container area, and raised beds.

We had fantastic sponsorship again - Wham, Scott Dawson Associates, Greenhouse Sensations, Eden Hall Greenhouses, Lancashire Summerhouses, the RHS, Creative Support, the Duchy of Lancaster, Link-

a-bord, Kings Seeds, Mono Alarms and last but not least, Hyndburn Borough Council without their help we really couldn't put on the show. They very kindly transported all our kit and plants there and back again.

There was plenty of press interest and Carol Klein, BBC Gardeners World, filmed from our plot. I taught her and crew all about growing chick peas and electric daisy. She was so lovely, borrowing my new long nosed secateurs and apologising for having to touch the plants. It really was one gardener talking to another. Trying not to laugh out loud whilst the crew filmed her reaction to tasting an electric daisy was quite difficult. It was a brilliant Show, though hard work and stressful. Over 12 months work goes into putting on a show – planning, sponsorship, scrounging, growing – it takes over your life. We've met thousands of people during the 3 years, made some excellent contacts, had national press coverage, seen some fabulous gardens, had a laugh, shared so much knowledge and information with fellow gardeners and exhibitors, seed swapped, promoted Accrington.

Thank you to all our sponsors, Hyndburn Borough Council and the volunteers and groups who all took part – Baxenden Allotments, Church Prospects, Clayton le Moors Prospects, HFA, Hyndburn Green Spaces Forum, Incredible Edible Accrington, NVS Lancashire and Sandy Lane Gardening Group.

**GREAT PILES O HORSE MUCK** A number of tenants have made enquiries regarding the possibility of the Council supplying horse manure. Whilst the Council does not deliver, it can provide the next best thing – a free and sustainable source. The Norden allotment site in Great Harwood, Alan Ramsbottom Way, has a large mountain of well matured horse muck. With a trailer and spade please take as much as you want.

**HFA meetings are held 7.30pm at the Baxenden Village Club, Manchester Road, Baxenden. The next meeting is on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The AGM is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

