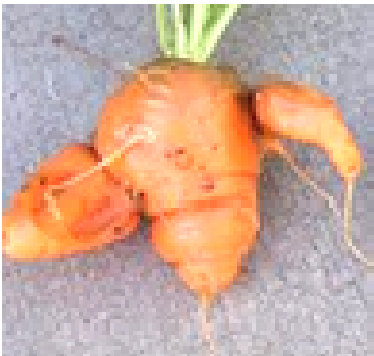




# HYNDBURN

The place to be  
an excellent council

Spring Edition 2015



## THE KNOBBLY CARROT GROWER

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

The Council has started its allotment inspections, particularly targeting those plots that have seen little or no use over the last 12 months. By April the Spring planting should be well under way and there can be no excuse for work not having started. Anyone wishing to complain regarding the condition of an allotment plot should contact the Council on 01254 356180.



**ALLOTMENT VACANCIES.** There are still vacancies on the Meadoway Allotment site, opposite St Christopher's School, Queens Road West, Accrington. If you know of anyone interested in keeping an allotment please put them in touch with the Council on 01254 356180.

**HYNDBURN FEDERATION OF ALLOTMENTS.** Meetings are held 7.30pm at the Baxenden Village Club, Manchester Road, Baxenden, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> September, and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**TATTON RHS FLOWER SHOW 2015.** After two very successful years the HFA will once again be showing at the RHS Tatton Flower Show in 2015. The theme this year for the allotment display will be "Allotmentality," promoting the benefits to mental health and general wellbeing of gardening. The Sandy Lane Gardening Group (Queens Award for Voluntary Service), a group of volunteer gardeners with long term mental health problems, will have some service users planting up some 1m square raised beds and are also running a competition via Creative Support for other service users to have the opportunity of planting a bed. The plot will be 10x15m, featuring a garden shed, disability accessible greenhouse, recycled containers, patio area, raised beds and hopefully a polytunnel. The Tatton show runs from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015. Please do your best to attend the show and show your support for the HFA and the benefit of having an allotment.



## MAINS WATER USAGE



Over the last three years the Council has worked closely with allotment tenants and the Hyndburn Federation of Allotments to substantially reduce the amount of mains water used.

From 2013 the Council introduced a policy of charging each allotment site according to how much water the allotment site actually used. The quantities of water used have shown a dramatic reduction; in 2012 6,400,000 litres of water was used, equivalent to 2.5 Olympic sized swimming pools. Water saving has now reduced this down to 2,200,000 litres of water, less than one Olympic sized swimming pool.

The Council aims to continue the downward trend, not only saving allotment tenants more money, but also reducing the amount of carbon dioxide produced through cleaning water to making it fit to drink. The Council hopes to encourage more allotment tenants to turn to rainwater collection, through the provision of rain water barrels, which is free and does not result

of carbon dioxide production.

From 2016 allotment tenants can opt out of the mains water billing system if they agree not to use the mains water and turn to rainwater collection. The cost of purchasing a rainwater barrel is relatively small, the cost of which can be recovered after only a few of years not paying water bills.

Cath Holmes, Chair of the Hyndburn Federation of Allotments, said "Water bills and excessive use have been one of the biggest gripes from allotmenters. It's great that the Council tackled the issue and brought in a fairer system by billing on a site by site basis. I think it has focused minds, resulting in a drastic reduction in the amount of mains water being used. The option to opt out, takes that one step further. Collecting rainwater is easy, environmentally friendly, better for your plants and FREE."



**ALLOTMENT DEPOSIT SCHEME.** A report will be submitted to the Councils Cabinet meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015. The deposit scheme will be aimed at new tenants only, and will be introduced to encourage tenants to leave their allotment plot in good condition when they leave the plot. The Council is increasingly using its allotment budget for clearing waste from plots, resulting in pressure to increase allotment rents for existing tenants. Copies of the report can be downloaded from the Councils

website under the Council Meeting section.

**"GROW YOUR OWN MEALS" FOOD POVERTY PROJECT.** Linking local food growing with people experiencing food poverty. Do you have a surplus of fruit and veg from the allotment? Are you interested in growing and donating food? Do you need help growing food to be donated to food banks and community kitchens? Are you experiencing food poverty and would like help to grow your own food on your windowsill or at an allotment?

Prospects Foundation has received some funding to link local food growing with people in need of food, for example, food banks, children not having enough to eat during the school holidays and lunch clubs. Please contact Julie Livesey at Prospects for more information on 01254 230348 or email: [julie.livesey@prospectsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:julie.livesey@prospectsfoundation.org.uk)

**BEE KEEPING ON ALLOTMENTS.** The Council is keen to ensure that where appropriate allotment tenants are able to keep Honey Bees on their allotment, so long as they have a basic understanding of what is involved, and how to manage the Bees professionally. To encourage the keeping of Bees the Council is working closely with Offshoots, based at Townley Hall, Burnley. It is hoped that an Apiary will be set up shortly on the Woodnook allotment



site, as part of the Offshoots Bee farm. Offshoots



have a British Black Bee breeding programme, with the aim of increasing the British Black Bee population throughout Pennine Lancashire. During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the British Black Bee nearly became extinct, and is now only found in a few isolated locations in the UK. More information will be made available as the project progresses.

**SECURITY POSTER** On the final page of the newsletter is a poster that you can print off and use on your allotment. The poster has kindly been supplied by the Police for your use. Please print off the poster and attach to your gate or shed in clear view, showing that you keep no valuables on your plot. The Council continues to receive reports of allotment theft and damage. Unfortunately allotments are easy targets for criminals, with a large number of tenants suffering damage to their sheds and gates as a consequence of a small number keeping high value strimmers, mowers, generators and the like. For those that do suffer damage or theft, you must report the incident to the Police on the new non-emergency Police telephone number 101. Make sure that you get a crime reference number. Unfortunately a large number of break-ins go unreported. The Police cannot do anything unless the crime is reported and the extent of the problem becomes known.



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**There are no  
valuable items  
kept in this shed  
or out building**

Crime is low in Lancashire...

*Let's keep it that way*



**Lancashire  
Constabulary**  
police and communities together