



Promoting Gardening in Oldham Schools

Do your pupils have 'Green fingers? Does your school care about the environment and increasing sustainability? Do you grow your own flowers, fruit or vegetables? Would you be interested in increasing the area under cultivation*? Would you be willing to showcase and/or share your successes with others?

Following our involvement in this year's very successful Saddleworth Summer Show the Rotary Club of Oldham Metro is keen to plough some of the proceeds back into the local community and one way in which it proposes to do this is by offering support for schools engaged in the RHS National Campaign for School Gardening.

The club is willing to provide funds or equipment (maybe some labour!) to help schools move forward, and, having seen the efforts of Cheshire schools at this year's RHS Flower Show at Tatton, would be particularly keen to support a local school which wanted to work to that end and make an entry to next year's show. Ideally we would like to link with schools early in the school year so that staff and pupils who are interested can build it into their plans and the Oldham Evening Chronicle, a major sponsor of the Saddleworth Show, has indicated it would like to follow and report on developments over the school year.

In the first instance we are offering support to schools who have registered an interest in the National Campaign for School Gardening but it is hope to roll that support out to other schools in the future.

Interested schools are invited to very briefly outline their plans and the support they are looking for by e-mailing Rotarian Mel Farrar of the Vocational & Youth Committee on melfarrar@foxdentonventures.freeserve.co.uk. Please include the name and role of the school contact so that a grant application form can be forwarded.

* For schools with limited ground area Rochdale Rotary Club have developed the first vertical garden. **A Vertical Urban Farm**

- Visit their website www.rotaryrochdale.co.uk to find out more