

## Resistance is fertile: edible Todmorden leads the way in the "grow your own" revolution

'It is a long journey from a small town in the Pennines to the grand deliberations of global leaders in Copenhagen; a long chain of causation from the choices of individuals to global decisions for the planet. But every journey starts with one step, and every great cause starts with small decisions.

Today, Todmorden. Tomorrow, the world.'

The neat pun on the left is from [Rhubarb magazine](#), yes it is, and is from the pen of Professor Tim Lang, one of the original inspirers of Incredible edibility. The quote above right was from a leading article in the [Independent on Sunday](#), hailing Todmorden as Britain's greenest town. Our next coverage could well be on BBC Radio 4's 'Costing the earth' (1:30 on Thursdays) who were [here last week](#) (pictured right). The town looked perfect for radio.

Meanwhile [Kerrygold gave us a grand](#) for being the most inspirational community project. The money could be just the job for planting some land we've just been kindly donated. And we've just been offered another £10,000 by the Community Fund for Calderdale for our Walsden polytunnel - more detail in future bulletins. If you'd like to sample some speeches, we now have a [video archive - scroll down that page](#) for instance to see and hear Pam Warhurst in inspiring action.

**10 FOR 2010.** To reinforce how we feel about action needed now, we've made a list of ten practical ideas for what could be done in 2010. Read them [here in our menu for the future](#).



**UNE SOLUTION TOUTE SIMPLE: OR LA FÓRMULA PARA SALVAR EL PLANETA.** Yes we're going multilingual this month because the word has spread even to [French Canada - their 'solution'](#) is our Google map of egg sites - and to [EcoVillage in Chile](#) ([warning](#), [Spanish translation may be needed](#)). More locally visitors from [Ludlow](#) and [Mold](#) have spread the word back home. Rossendale is aiming to go incredible edible. Even Community Harvest Australia have wished us well and quoted us on their website. Isn't it amazing how similar ideas are springing up in different places across the world? - Our Mold visitor for instance is part of [the Cittaslow movement](#) that now has over 100 towns in many different countries signed up to its principles. We've added to our maps a [world map](#) of everywhere that's mentioned us so we can keep track.



**SCHOOL'S FOR GROWING.** Tod High School, fresh from hosting our conference last month (catch up on info from that [here](#)), has been in the news again. They won the School Catering Award at the Sony-sponsored Education Business Awards 2009 (pictured left) - [see the article in the Todmorden News](#) where head chef Tony Mulgrew mentions IncredEdible as one of the factors in their success. The school's also put in a planning application for a fish farm and aquaponics hum, part of its joint work with us in developing self-sufficiency and training in food production. Plus our local Acorn Centre is offering [jobs in training](#) to turn Tod into a giant veg patch.



**ADOPT A BED** - And we're doing a bit of schooling ourselves. Not only has Nick planked, no plonked down his [guide to how to](#) make a raised bed for numpties. He's looking people to adopt them around the town centre and Longfield: they'll be for growing food to share. And he's also fixed two sessions with Northern fruit expert Clifford Cain, on 16 January and 20 March, on [pruning and grafting](#). Become a parent without the pain, says Nick: [contact him here](#).



**STILL PLANTING AFTER ALL THESE YEARS** - Nick's still planting too.

Pictured on the right [the Cornholme Community project](#) put thirty fruit bushes, three cherry trees and a host of bulbs in the ground in late November. Even though, by December (see left) the snow fairy had dusted a few of our over-wintering veg. Time to survey the amazing number of trees we've planted: Nick's put together [a map and a mini-database here](#).

**DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS? OR CHANUKAH?** Yule bet we do. Look, over in the History section Rachael has found [recipes from different eras](#) for sour cream spice cake and steak and kidney pie. (And if you haven't browsed the memories and records in that section, do have a look). Yes, it's all quite meaty around this time of year. If you really want to know how to process chicken from clucking to tucking in, [read this](#). Or there may still be some [turkeys or pigs for sale here](#). There

are certainly some delicious [seasonal latkes here](#). Whatever your fancy, enjoy.





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