



### **Report to Environment Committee of Colwich Parish Council 07/12/2023**

The Summer was very mixed weather-wise, however this provided very good growing weather and plotholders on the whole had a very good season. This was slightly spoilt as blight brought on by the wet and humid weather affected some potato and tomato crops. The Autumn months have been very wet and this has presented its difficulties for members preparing their plots at the end of the season in readiness for next year.

The wet weather we have had has really tested the drainage system and bog garden that we installed earlier in the year. However we are pleased that it has passed this test with flying colours. Water running down both roads is now collected by drain and diverted to the bog garden. This is not lined and the water collected gradually disappears without overflowing into the perimeter ditch and onwards to the local watercourses.

Work on developing the social area adjacent to the main shed has continued despite the poor weather conditions and we are hopeful that it will be available for use from next Spring as a place where plotholders can relax and take a break in pleasant surroundings.

The water harvesting system is working well and a number of plotholders use it on a regular basis. We are looking into ways of moving the water further round the allotments so it is available to more members. It is worth noting that we have nine mains fed troughs that are evenly spaced around the site and water is our single biggest cost.

The new year will bring about our biggest change in tenants for many years as some of our older members hang up their boots. Despite this we still have many locals on the waiting list ready to take up plots and despite 2 new families taking plots we have 22 remaining on the list. The present position regarding plot numbers are 49 full plots, 6 three-quarter plots, and 18 half plots for a total of 73 plots. There are a further 60 members who are joint tenants ie wives, husbands, sons and daughters who pay personal liability insurance giving a total of 133 members.

I would like (on behalf of all our plotholders and members, some of whom are themselves bloomers) to take this opportunity to congratulate again the bloomers for their exceptional results in this years Britain in Bloom competition.

During the judging walk round of the allotments for the competition, the judges were impressed with the work we are doing to improve the site and suggested that we should participate in the 'Its your neighbourhood scheme' which we intend to do. The bloomers have very kindly offered their support should we need it.

Chris Johnson