



Report to Environment Committee of Colwich Parish Council 13/03/2025

The Winter has been mixed weather-wise, with the ground being reasonably dry at the start of Spring allowing fairly early cultivation. On the other hand we have endured three heavy storms causing damage to fences, greenhouses and polytunnels. Storms Darragh and Eowyn were particularly bad, damaging the site roads which we plan to work on in the Spring.

We are presently nearing the end of the tenancy renewal process and have split a further plot to allow another person on the waiting list to have a plot. There still remains 14 waiting for a plot at the start of the season. We now have 46 full plots, 5 three-quarter plots, 22 half plots and the 3 community plots, Colwich Parish Bloomers, SinCH and the childrens plot. With just two weeks to go before renewal ends we expect to have approaching 140 members. It is pleasing to note that 4 plots have been let to couples with young families.

At the end of last year Lloyds Bank informed us that they were closing both the treasurers account that we had, and the branch in Rugeley that we use. We have now signed up to internet banking with a two signatory system for payments. Plot holders are encouraged to pay rent, insurance, seed and water bills by bank transfer. The Association accordingly, will pay the Parish Council rent by bank transfer. So far this is working very well with most members embracing it as it helps us keep costs down.

We continue to improve the communal areas around the allotment site with a proposal for new picnic benches to replace the aging benches that we were given by the Red Lion and are now becoming beyond repair. We are also looking into the possibility of purchasing a canopy for the shed.

We are continually improving the bog garden area at the bottom of the site with new planting and pruning and training of the fruit trees in this area and it has proved very successful in alleviating flooding of the lower plots and overflow onto the A51.

The date for our AGM has been set for 22nd May, we will open the Allotments for visitors on 6th July for Open Gardens and on 20th July we will have our own Open Day.

Chris Johnson