

## Allotment Report.

Necton Allotment Association has enjoyed a productive year with the installation of the water supply, and an increase in membership numbers. We have had a variety of successful fundraising activities and we were fortunate to get a funding bid accepted from the Breckland Participatory Budget fund.

Much like other organisations in the village we have found that attracting new members is a challenge, which we are working to address by increasing awareness of the allotments. We are trying to make them more appealing to both the existing and prospective tenants. To this end we have undertaken a number of activities and engaged with others in the community. These range from being a part of Necton Village Forum to attending events arranged by others in the village such as the Summer Fayre, School quiz night and the Windmill quiz night.

In terms of making the allotments a more appealing proposition we have listened to feedback and we have introduced quarter sized plots which are much more manageable for those who might struggle with a half

or full plot and we also plan to install a bench on the allotment site in the near future to provide somewhere to rest. We have seen a slow but steady increase in our numbers and now have approximately half of our plots occupied.

From the outset there has been a great deal of community spirit within the association and the wider community. Right from the off our members have worked hard together to get the allotments up and running and to help each other and the association as a whole, whether it be with helping a fellow plot holder or organising with fundraising raising or giving simple advice.

We have been very fortunate in receiving help and assistance from other individuals, businesses and the parish council. This has taken many forms ranging from donations to our funds to donations of manure, mowing unoccupied parts of the allotments to installing a water supply and stand pipes.

Looking ahead we have a number of projects which we are going to start work on over the coming months. These include installing a bench, planting some fruit trees ( which will be for the whole community to take

advantage of ), making improvements to the car park and planting pumpkins in the unused area for the village to pick for halloween. We will also be repeating some of our fund raising activities from last year and further promoting the allotments to try to attract new members.

On a final note we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has supported the allotments as for a small group like ours your support makes all the difference, and please let us know if anyone is interested in taking on an allotment.

Sheila Glenister

23 April 2015