Allotment Report April 2024

What a year for the poor gardener! The wet weather started in April and never ended it seemed.

Planting was slower as April and May were wet but June brought a complete change with barely a drop. At our annual inspection in June, most allotments were looking very productive considering. The best allotment award went to Kevin Webster, who being a well-worn allotment holder knows how to deal with the elements and turn the weather to his advantage.

Plot 4 had a new tenant who had great enthusiasm when he got the plot but as yet had not made a start on clearing it so weeds were beginning to take over. Attempts to get in touch with him were proving difficult as he was not a permanent resident in the parish.

July was unseasonably wet and cold as was August. Plot 3A at the bottom had recently been taken over by a new tenant and reinstated to a productive plot. Plot 4 however was still causing a headache. Cllr Ros Newberry had eventually been able to contact the new tenant and by this time he realised that he could not commit to the time needed to clear and manage the plot so handed it back. The Parish Council decided that as it is such a large plot, that maybe with the next person on the waiting lists permission, they would be happy to split the plot in half to make it more manageable. All agreed, so in October at the start of the new tenant rents, the plot was split in two and two new tenants took over the plots.

September saw some respite from the wet weather and crops were doing well but October and November were very wet and unseasonable mild, rhubarb, mint, and roses all having a second burst.

Winter turned out to be the wettest and warmest on record but amazingly, most plots looked well considering.

Currently, there are five people on the waiting list, one a resident of the parish and four from outside the parish. The rents have stayed the same again this year at £30 for a full plot and £20 for a half plot.

Cllr Ros Newberry
Loders Parish Council
April 2024